

KENTUCKY

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LAW ENFORCEMENT



Honoring
our Fallen

LAW ENFORCEMENT CONTENTS

Matthew G. Bevin
Governor

John C. Tilley
Justice and Public Safety
Cabinet Secretary

Mark Filburn
Commissioner

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This publication is produced quarterly as a training and marketing tool for the Kentucky law enforcement community as well as public officials and others involved with law enforcement or the oversight of law enforcement. It includes best practices, professional profiles, technology and law updates of practical application and news-to-use for professionals in the performance of their daily duties.

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The Kentucky Law Enforcement staff welcomes submissions of law enforcement-related photos and articles for possible submission in the magazine and to the monthly KLE Dispatches electronic newsletter. We can use black and white or color prints, or digital images. KLE news staff can also publish upcoming events and meetings. Please include the event title, name of sponsoring agency, date and location of the event and contact information.



Dean's Column

Urbanization and Rural Flight — Challenges for Kentucky Law Enforcement

VICTOR E. KAPPELER | DEAN AND FOUNDATION PROFESSOR,
COLLEGE OF JUSTICE AND SAFETY, EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

In my previous column, I discussed the criminological imagination and how police executives in Kentucky can harness its predictive powers to better situate their agencies for the future. In essence, the argument was that by scanning the horizon of emerging social conditions and trends, leaders can develop a better sense of challenges they will be confronting. In this column, I will look at a couple of well-established demographic trends that promise to effect law enforcement agencies in Kentucky for decades — urbanization, inversion and rural flight.

Urbanization is the process whereby more and more people move to cities. The corollary of urbanization, of course, is rural flight — people leaving the countryside to move into cities. The trend toward urbanization is both global and regional. Demographers, for example, predict that by 2050 more than 85 percent of the world's population will live in urban centers. Kentucky is no exception to this trend with the greatest levels of urbanization occurring in Fayette, Jefferson and Daviess counties as well as their adjacent areas. Kentucky has witnessed steep declines in population in the eastern and western parts of the state and significant growth in the “golden triangle” area of Louisville, Lexington and northern Kentucky. These shifts are primarily based on decreases in birth rates, migration from rural parts of the state and younger Kentuckians leaving their home areas and the commonwealth entirely.

The larger cities of Kentucky that continue to grow are beginning to experience urban inversion. This is a process in which increasing numbers of well educated, affluent and, typically, white residents move into a city's core, raising the costs of housing, goods and services, and pushing less affluent, often minority residents out of these spaces. But these demographic trends are uneven and areas of the state experiencing growth also are witnessing their own forms of micro-migration. For example, as larger cities compete for growth and economic-development resources, they often seek to gentrify their city cores, which pushes the working poor out of urban space and into suburbs and nearby towns, which are more affordable.

Urbanization and inversion, when coupled with rural flight, creates communities in transition posing important challenges to policing. As populations in both rural and urban centers change, important shifts in local politics and

economics are likely to occur. Let's consider a few of the consequences these demographic shifts may have on law enforcement agencies.

Rural flight will make it more difficult for rural agencies to secure the economic support they need to recruit, hire and retain highly-qualified police personnel, whereas urban agencies experiencing rapid growth will find it harder to hire and train sufficient numbers of officers in a timely fashion.

Rural agencies will have to modify policing services to be more accommodating to aging populations. The forms of criminality and types of victimization experienced by rural residents will change with shifting age demographics.

Urban agencies will need to continually adjust their deployment strategies to new spatial distributions of crime and victimization brought on by inversion as well as changing political and public demands.

Urban agencies will increasingly deal with transient workers and commuter populations, as they travel from suburban residences to city work locations. As rural locations strive to bolster economic development, these communities may find themselves dealing with an increasing number of tourists and visitors from outside their communities.

Urban agencies may experience increased conflict over “rights to the city” as disenfranchised and displaced populations come into conflict with the interests of newer and wealthier core residents.

The dearth of economic support for municipal and county services brought about by rural flight and political disdain for taxation could lead to large sections of Kentucky becoming ungovernable, the collapse or consolidation of local law enforcement agencies, greater reliance on state and federal agencies or even dependency on voluntary police or citizen groups.

While many Kentucky law enforcement agencies are beginning to experience mild variants of these demographic consequences, the intensity of these challenges promises to increase for the foreseeable future. ■



Editorial

Stop Bowing to Media Pressure in OIS Investigations

SHERIFF KEITH CAIN | SHERIFF OF DAVIESS COUNTY, KY

In the post-Ferguson era, a disturbingly widespread belief has taken root that, when a police officer shoots someone — unless that person actively was shooting at police — the officer probably was wrong, somewhere on the spectrum between having committed a vicious homicide and having failed to find a better way to resolve the situation. Some high-visibility political movements and major media outlets such as the Washington Post (which has noted, with horror, that “police officers are rarely charged with crimes after shooting someone”) have capitalized on the failure of law enforcement leaders to effectively counter this narrative.

In some instances, elected state and local prosecutors and politically-motivated federal prosecutors seem to be yielding to pressures to treat an officer-involved shooting as a presumed criminal act, and prosecute it as such. The result is the public may buy into the idea that use of deadly force by a police officer is no different than by any other citizen. Yet, all of us in law enforcement know, with rare exception, it is different. Police officers are the only members of our society who are specifically authorized to use deadly force under certain circumstances as part of the job they are paid to do and the oath they are sworn to uphold. Yielding to political pressures to blur this distinction is not in the best interest of our communities.

Part of the problem is many agencies know how to conduct only one kind of investigation, and that is one in which the person being investigated is suspected of having committed a crime. When this philosophy is overlaid on an OIS investigation, frequently the result is one in which any discrepancies in the officer's account are attributed to deception rather than an acknowledgment of what happens to a person's memories and ability to recall what happened under stress. Yet, there have been multiple cases in which the primary evidence against the officer has been a discrepancy between his initial statement and subsequent testimony.

The science is well-established and fairly clear: What we remember from an event that involved actual or perceived life-threatening violence directed against us is not as crystal clear as slow-motion images from a multi-angle video camera array. Officers best remember only that which was subliminally perceived as survival relevant during the event. I chased the subject running from a crime scene. When I caught him, he appeared to be reaching for a gun and

ignored my commands to stop and show me his hands, and I shot him,' may be all the officer is capable of initially remembering. Exactly where he was standing, distances, how many rounds he fired, whether there were other persons present and how long the confrontation lasted all are details that may emerge later.

Tunnel-vision, auditory exclusion and tachypsychia are all real, documented factors that alter what we perceive under extreme stress and what we remember immediately afterward. Yet, an OIS interrogation may be conducted without regard for them. When an officer gives an initial statement that turns out to be at variance with other evidence — such as a video — or a subsequent statement that includes details omitted from the initial one, the inclination sometimes is to portray the discrepancy as evidence of deception. An officer's re-visiting the scene or discussing the event with other participants prior to giving a detailed statement may be painted by the press or a prosecutor as collusion or a “contamination” of the witness when, in reality, it may be the best method for re-constructing what actually happened.

No responsible law enforcement agency wants to cover for an officer who clearly was in the wrong, who used deadly force when it was clearly not called for. If early indications are the officer's use of deadly force was unambiguously inappropriate, a different approach is obviously warranted and different procedures should be followed, but the notion that every OIS investigation should be treated as a criminal one disrespects the officer, the agency and the public. As we have seen, in some cases silently going along with the presumption the officer was wrong ultimately made matters worse when public expectations of an indictment or conviction weren't met.

It would seem obvious that both the cause of justice and the interests of the agency are best served by the most accurate picture of what really happened, and an investigative approach that starts with the presumption that the officer was wrong — that automatically treats the officer as a criminal suspect — does not usually serve either cause. A science-based policy for dealing with each OIS, unapologetically presented and rigorously defended, would do much to right the ship, treat our officers fairly and best serve the public's interest in ensuring their law enforcement agencies and their officers are ethical, moral, professional and accountable. ■

PEACE OFFICERS ACROSS KENTUCKY TO RECEIVE PAY RAISE

More Than 200 Certified Officers to be Included in Training Incentive

Certified Peace Officers across the Commonwealth will receive their first training incentive raise in 15 years, thanks to Gov. Matt Bevin's commitment to meeting the needs of Kentucky law enforcement.

The measure affects nearly 7,300 Kentucky officers served by the Kentucky Department of Criminal Justice Training.

"We have said consistently, that we are going to protect those who protect us," said Gov. Bevin. "We are pleased that this final budget ends the practice of sweeping KLEFPF funds. These dollars are for our law enforcement and that is exactly what they are going to be used for. We will use these funds not only to attract the best and the brightest, but also to ensure we keep them."

Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Secretary John C. Tilley applauded the governor's dedication to peace officers and his resolve in the state budget.

"Kentucky can be proud of its long tradition of training and professionalism in law enforcement," Tilley said. "Increasing the incentive will only strengthen our commitment to the highest standards of public service — and to the men and women who put their own lives at risk to keep our communities safe."

The dollars Gov. Bevin referenced are generated through the Kentucky Law Enforcement Foundation Program Fund, a 1.8 percent surcharge on casualty insurance premiums. About 70 percent of revenues raised from the surcharge are committed to KLEFPF and designated for the mandatory training of Kentucky law enforcement officers.

The fund also supports a training incentive stipend to certified Kentucky peace officers who complete annual, statutorily-mandated training requirements. Since 2001, officers have received \$3,100 annually upon meeting these standards. Following Gov. Bevin's budget signature, these officers will receive \$4,000 annually.

"I praise Gov. Bevin for following through with what he said he'd do," said Wayne Wright, Kentucky Sheriffs' Association president and Woodford County sheriff. "He didn't back down, and he made it happen. For officers to be recognized through the legislature for their training, and to be compensated for that training, is outstanding."

DOCJT, the Kentucky Sheriffs' Association, Kentucky Association of Chiefs of Police, Kentucky Fraternal Order of Police, Kentucky League of Cities and Kentucky Association of Counties formed a coalition to present a unified voice of support for these necessary changes, said Wayne Turner, Bellevue Police chief and KACP legislative chairman.

"This was the first time we all spoke to both democrats and republicans with a common voice to say, 'We need this done for the continued professionalization of law enforcement,'" Turner said. "We worked together for a common cause. The average police officer in Kentucky makes about \$30,000. When you get the opportunity to give them a \$900 pay raise through this training stipend, it is astronomical."

The budget also establishes equitability among the state's law enforcement by including more than 200 certified Kentucky officers who meet the qualifications for inclusion in the KLEFPF training incentive, but have never been statutorily included to receive the stipend. This measure brings in officers from the Kentucky Horse Park mounted patrol officers, Kentucky Department of Parks rangers, Kentucky Department of Agriculture investigators, Kentucky Alcoholic Beverage Control investigators, Kentucky Department of Insurance investigators, Kentucky Attorney General's Office investigators and school resource officers serving statewide.

"With the creation of the Peace Officer Professional Standards, the sheriffs stepped up in education and voted to participate in POPS," Wright said. "It was a big push from our association to get everyone on the same training page and on an equal training field with police officers. Now, we are trained under the same umbrella. The increase in (the KLEFPF training incentive) is a way of showing that we trust our employees. Having better training allows us to retain more employees. Typically some sheriffs' offices cannot pay as much as some police departments, so for hiring and retaining officers this increase helps a whole lot."



PHOTO BY JIM ROBERTSON

NEW CHIEFS

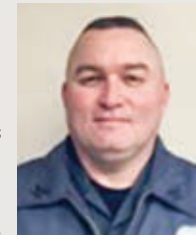
TRAVIS LEE RICHARDSON Livingston Police Department

Travis Lee Richardson was appointed chief of Livingston Police Department on Sept. 15, 2015. Richardson has 12 years of law enforcement experience and began his career with the Lancaster Police Department. Before coming to Livingston, he served the Bluegrass Airport and Stanford police departments. Richardson attended Eastern Kentucky University and is a graduate of the Department of Criminal Justice Training Basic Training Class No. 353. He is a hazmat technician, EMT and International Fire Service Accreditation Congress Level II firefighter.



JEFFREY A. JEWELL Brownsville Police Department

Jeffrey Jewell was appointed chief of Brownsville Police Department on Oct. 1, 2015. Jewell began his law enforcement career with the U.S. Army Military Police, as a U.S. Sr. Military Police customs inspector. He then joined the Cave City Police Department. Jewell also has served the Glasgow Police Department, Kentucky Vehicle Enforcement and Kentucky Department of Park Rangers. In 2007, Jewell joined the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources from which he retired in 2014. Jewell is a graduate of the Department Criminal Justice Training Basic Training Class No. 234. The most challenging courses Jewell has taken in his law enforcement career were the Hunting Incident Bullet Path Reconstructionist course, in Forsythe, Ga. and a water survival class.



BENJAMIN NATIVIDAD Clinton Police Department

Benjamin Natividad was appointed chief of Clinton Police Department on Dec. 1, 2015. Natividad began his career with the Fulton Police Department and has 15 years of law enforcement experience. Before coming to Clinton, he served the Mayfield Police Department and the Graves and Hickman counties sheriffs' offices. Natividad is a graduate of Hickman High School and the Department Criminal Justice Training Basic Training Class No. 311.



AARON YATES Meadow Vale Police Department

Aaron Yates was appointed chief of Meadow Vale Police Department on Dec. 21, 2015. Yates has more than 18 years of law enforcement experience.

He began his career with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office and served there 10 years. Yates also served as the chief of Hillview Police Department before coming to Meadow Vale. He moved through the ranks to become chief. Yates is a graduate of the Department Criminal Justice Training Basic Training Class No. 272, Academy of Police Supervision Class No. 13 and Southern Police Institute AOC Class No. 110.

JEFFERY W. HART Uniontown Police Department

Jeffery W. Hart was appointed chief of Uniontown Police Department on Jan. 19. Hart has 35 years of law enforcement experience. He began his career with the U.S. Army Military Police in 1981 and served three years. Hart then joined the Henderson County Sheriff's Office. Most of his law enforcement career was spent with the Morganfield Police Department, retiring as the assistant chief after 25 years of service. Hart served as acting chief for the Saint Elmo Police Department, Illinois, for six months before coming to Uniontown Police Department. He is a graduate of the Department Criminal Justice Training Basic Training Class No. 169. Hart has more than 2,000 Department of Criminal Justice Training hours and holds CDP certificates as an Intermediate Law Enforcement Officer, Advanced Law Enforcement Officer, Law Enforcement Officer Investigator and Law Enforcement Supervisor.



DONALD R. SHEPHERD Benham Police Department

Donald Shepherd was appointed chief of Benham Police Department on Feb. 29. Shepherd began his law enforcement career with the Benham Police Department, moving through the ranks to become chief. He has four years of law enforcement experience. Shepherd attended Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College and is a graduate of the Department of Criminal Justice Training Basic Training Class No. 443.



CRYSTAL DAVIS Elkhorn City Police Department

Crystal Davis was appointed chief of Elkhorn City Police Department on Mar. 7. Davis has 13 years of law enforcement experience and she began her law enforcement career with the Letcher County Sheriff's Office. Before coming to Elkhorn City, she served the Jenkins Police Department and the Kentucky State Park Rangers. Davis has an associate's degree in criminal justice from Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College and is working towards a bachelor's degree. Davis is a graduate of the Department of Criminal Justice Training Basic Training Class No. 420.

Former Jeffersontown Chief Appointed as KSP Commissioner

Gov. Matt Bevin and Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet Sec. John Tilley appointed Richard W. Sanders as Kentucky State Police commissioner.

Sanders, former chief at Jeffersontown Police Department, joined KSP with more than 40 years of experience from federal and local law enforcement agencies. In addition, Maj. William Alexander Payne from JPD is deputy commissioner under Sanders. He brings more than 30 years of experience in law enforcement, including 18 years with KSP.

Sanders previously worked 24 years for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. During his final year, he served as assistant administrator for the operational support division at DEA headquarters in Washington, D.C., where he oversaw information technology, investigative technology, forensic sciences and administrative management programs. Sanders started his career with the Jefferson County Police Department. He has a bachelor's degree in police administration and a master's in administration of justice from the University of Louisville.

LAW ENFORCEMENT VETERAN TAKES HELM OF DOCJT

Mark Filburn, a law enforcement professional with more than 30 years of experience, is in place as the Department of Criminal Justice Training’s new commissioner.

Filburn joins the department following decades of service in community policing, criminal investigations, law enforcement training and command of tactical operations. Since 2005, he has worked as a law enforcement specialist with the Kentucky League of Cities, providing consultation services to police agencies across the commonwealth.

“I am truly humbled and honored to be chosen by Gov. Matt Bevin and Justice Cabinet Secretary John Tilley to lead the outstanding men and women of the Department of Criminal Justice Training,” Filburn said. “We will continue the tradition of providing excellent training to make our law enforcement agencies the most professional and safe in the country.”

Gov. Bevin appointed Filburn with the unanimous backing of a four-person search committee, which recommended his name from a pool of nine candidates.

“Mark showed tremendous passion for the men and women of law enforcement, their training, their level of professionalism and ultimate safety,” Tilley said. “He is unquestionably dedicated to the future of policing in Kentucky.”

In his role at the Kentucky League of Cities, Filburn provided safety and liability consulting services to police departments that participate in the KLC insurance program. He also developed safety and liability training programs and worked with police departments to evaluate policies and procedures.

Prior to that, Filburn served decades with the Jefferson County Police Department, which later merged into the Louisville Metro Police Department. His experience included key leadership roles in Louisville Metro’s Public Integrity Unit, along with operations and training. Starting in 1988, Filburn worked for a year with the United States Secret Service, which included presidential security details.

Filburn earned a bachelor’s degree in forensic studies from Indiana University in 1984 and graduated from basic training at DOCJT



PHOTO BY JIM ROBERTSON

that same year. He also is a graduate of the United States Secret Service Academy and Federal Law Enforcement Training Center’s criminal investigator course. Filburn has been a certified instructor for the Kentucky Law Enforcement Council since 1991 and received the council’s Melvin Shein Award in 2013.

Filburn and his wife, Linda, have two daughters, Tiffany and Morgan, and two grandchildren, Peyton and Colton.

Lexington Police Detective Receives Law Enforcement Award

Lexington Police Detective Reid Bowles was the recipient of the Fayette County Bar Association Law Enforcement Award at this year’s Law Day luncheon. Reid was the lead investigator in the Antonio Reese case, where 9-year-old Reese was shot while riding with his family in an industrial area of north Lexington.

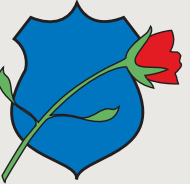


KLEMF Awards \$29,000 in Scholarships

A total of \$29,000 in scholarships was awarded to 25 students across Kentucky by the Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation. The Gerald F. Healy Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation scholarships were awarded to law enforcement officers’ dependents and survivors of officers killed in the line of duty. Telecommunicators and officers’ dependents were awarded \$1,000 toward the fall 2016 semester and officers’ survivors received \$2,000. The scholarships help support students at 10 Kentucky colleges and universities, and three out-of-state institutions.

Fall 2016 semester scholarship recipients are:

Rebecca Tribby*	Hannah Lamb	Hannah Shepherd
Anthony Jansen, Jr.*	Joseph Sparkman	Jonathan Melkulcok
Andrew Sticklen*	Ben Palmer	Madison Combs
Katherine Thacker*	Lauren Wesley	
Samantha Ratliff	Katelyn Thomas	
Rashuad Kennedy	Kathy Jo Donahue	
Brianna Gipson	Courtney Sauerbeck	
Colin Early	Madeline Knox	
Ashley Bowling	Mary Pickett	
Savannah Caldwell	Andrew Sexton	
Madison Bryant	Callie Teague	



* Denotes survivor

KLEC Presents CDP Certificates STAFF REPORT | KLEC

The Kentucky Law Enforcement Council’s Career Development Program is a voluntary program that awards specialty certificates based on an individual’s education, training and experience as a peace officer or telecommunicator. There are a total of 17 professional certificates; 12 for law enforcement that emphasize the career paths of patrol, investigations, traffic and management; and five certificates for telecommunications. The variety of certificates allows a person to individualize his or her course of study, just as someone would if pursuing a specific degree in college.

The KLEC congratulates and recognizes the following individuals for earning career development certificates. All have demonstrated a personal and professional commitment to their training, education and experience as a law enforcement officer or telecommunicator.

INTERMEDIATE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER
Bowling Green Police Department
Jacob Forrester
Sean E. Girbert
Clifton Phelps

Covington Police Department
Gregory M. Rogers

Frankfort Police Department
Joel K. Dunmire
William A. Stratton

Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office
Raymond L. Kaelin

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife
Richard M. Waite II

Louisville Metro Police Department
Michael L. Jacobs

Pikeville Police Department
Billy Ratliff

Pulaski County Sheriff’s Office
Troy W. McLin

Wilmore Police Department
Nelson G. Shrout III

ADVANCED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER
Bowling Green Police Department
Sean E. Girbert

Daviess County Sheriff’s Office
Russ K. Day

Eminence Police Department
O.C. Jones Jr.

Fayette County Schools Police Department
Alisa M. Scott

Frankfort Police Department
Joel K. Dunmire
William A. Stratton

Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office
Raymond L. Kaelin

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife
Richard M. Waite II

Louisville Metro Police Department
Michael L. Jacobs

Louisville Regional Airport Police Department
Dustin A. Flannery

Wilmore Police Department
Scott C. Carnes
Nelson G. Shrout III

LAW ENFORCEMENT SUPERVISOR
Danville Police Department
Jonathan C. Courtwright

Florence Police Department
Walter H. Cooley III

LAW ENFORCEMENT MANAGER
Ashland Police Department
William H. Bare
Ronnie S. Sexton

Berea Police Department
Kenneth C. Puckett

Murray State University Police Department
Jeffery C. Gentry

LAW ENFORCEMENT EXECUTIVE
Campbellsville Police Department
Mitchell J. Bailey

Russellville Police Department
Roger D. McDonald

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER INVESTIGATOR
Cynthiana Police Department
Michael L. Coppage

Wilmore Police Department
Nelson G. Shrout III

LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAFFIC OFFICER
Frankfort Police Department
Joel K. Dunmire

Taylor Mill Police Department
James E. Mills

Wilmore Police Department
Scott C. Carnes

INTERMEDIATE PUBLIC SAFETY DISPATCHER
Pendleton County Dispatch
Carla Maines
Teresa D. Rick
Angela K. Wright

ADVANCED PUBLIC SAFETY DISPATCHER
Bluegrass 911 Central Communications
Vicki N. Dowell
Cathy M. Preston

Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office
Jeffrey S. Glass

Pendleton County Dispatch
Carla Maines
Teresa D. Rick

PUBLIC SAFETY DISPATCH SUPERVISOR
Bluegrass 911 Central Communications
Candy L. Wilson

Pendleton County Dispatch
Teresa D. Rick

PUBLIC SAFETY DISPATCH MANAGER/DIRECTOR
Pendleton County Dispatch
Teresa D. Rick

CRIME SCENE PROCESSING OFFICER
Marshall County Sheriff’s Office
Matthew A. Hilbrecht

COMMUNICATIONS TRAINING OFFICER
Lawrenceburg Police Department
Courtney M. Fyffe

Pendleton County Dispatch
Teresa D. Rick

Highway Fatalities in Kentucky Increased Last Year

According to the Kentucky Office of Highway Safety and Kentucky State Police, there were 761 fatalities in 2015, 89 more than 2014.

“The number of fatalities during 2015 will not discourage our agency from striving ‘Toward Zero Deaths’ in the future,” said Trooper Kendra Wilson. “We are utilizing real-time, digital traffic data to identify high-crash corridors and increasing patrols and enforcement efforts in those areas.”

Of the 761 fatalities last year, 51 percent were not buckled up and 18.7 percent involved alcohol. More than 36 percent involved speeding or aggressive drivers. Motorcyclists accounted for 80 fatalities, with 65 percent not wearing helmets.

Bluegrass K-9 Narcotics Trials to be Conducted in Mount Sterling

The 2016 Bluegrass K-9 Narcotics Trials will be conducted August 19 to 22 in Mount Sterling, Ky. Police K-9 teams will participate in narcotic, apprehension and officer-protection scenarios. There will be a narcotics competition at the end of the training. The following certifications are available: NNDDA, IFRI, NAPCH and APCA.

The entry fee is \$50. For registration information, contact Robin Acciardo at (859) 754-3119 and for more general information, contact K-9 handlers, Deputy Tommy Parker at (859) 404-7220 or Patrol Capt. Kim Kipp at (606) 875-5042.





Former State Representative John Tilley hit the ground running as the new secretary of the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet. Hailing from Hopkinsville, Tilley is a former prosecutor who is nationally recognized for his work on criminal justice reform and drug policy.

A graduate of the University of Kentucky, Tilley worked at WKYT in Lexington and WYMT in Hazard before attending law school at Chase College of Law. After practicing law for 10 years, he was elected five times to the Kentucky House of Representatives, where he chaired the House Judiciary Committee. Tilley sponsored multiple pieces of significant legislation and his efforts triggered a national model for change — protecting public safety and holding offenders accountable, while controlling corrections’ costs, reducing recidivism and greatly increasing drug treatment. He has led efforts to combat synthetic and prescription drugs, for which Kentucky has received national acclaim. Tilley also has spearheaded efforts to protect victims of dating violence and sexual assault, fight human trafficking and internet predators and support members of the military. Tilley’s passion for all parts of the criminal justice system, his drive for accountability and transparency, guide his commitment to effectively lead the five departments housed within Kentucky’s Justice and Public Safety Cabinet. >>

PHOTO BY JIM ROBERTSON

NEW HORIZONS FOR KENTUCKY’S JUSTICE SYSTEM

Profiling Justice and Public Safety Cabinet Secretary John C. Tilley as he seeks to make Kentucky a national model in the criminal justice arena

ABBIE DARST | PROGRAM COORDINATOR

>> **Tell us a little about your background and how it has led you to this position as Justice Cabinet secretary.**

I've worked for 23 years in criminal justice in some capacity. I started working for a prosecutor when I was in law school. I continued working in the system, and prosecuted for nearly six years as a practicing lawyer. I represented a number of interests as a city attorney, and I represented the police on a number of issues that were important to them. In Hopkinsville, we had a harmonious relationship between the mayor, the administration and the police force. I worked closely with law enforcement during that time. My background led to what became a chairmanship for the judiciary committee. Our jurisdiction involved all matters related to criminal justice and law enforcement, so I've been in the trenches on these issues for more than two decades.

I've had some of my closest relationships with men and women in law enforcement. When I prosecuted, I felt like I owed the victim and the officer a fiduciary responsibility to the case. I kept them

apprised of everything going on and made sure they were comfortable with the way the case was progressing. I ran any plea deals by the officer and victim. I feel like that is critical in law enforcement and criminal justice. I've maintained good relationships with the various chiefs in Hopkinsville and western Kentucky, and also with the sheriffs in my area and those around the state. I've worked closely with the Kentucky Association of Chiefs of Police and the Kentucky Sheriff's Association. It's easier to maintain the relationship with the Kentucky State Police because they are here in Frankfort, but I still feel close to the other groups and have attended their conferences. I feel like I have a very good handle on issues of importance to them.

How do you think your time as a Kentucky representative will impact the way you approach this new position and lead the cabinet?

The criminal justice landscape has changed in a number of ways, and I've seen it first hand in the preceding two decades.

I think everyone in the system has realized, at some level, that we can't incarcerate our way out of the drug problem or a number of other problems in the system. For those who can benefit from treatment, those who are addicted or have mental health issues, those who are non-violent and non-sexual offenders, alternatives to incarceration do work and are preferred. That distinction is becoming clearer.

Against that backdrop, we continue to be mindful that offenders also need to be held accountable. We have to reform wrong doers. It is more important now than ever to focus on reentry and reduce recidivism. The public demands that when an offender returns to a community, there is less chance the offender commits a crime. That's where law enforcement needs a voice. That responsibility rests with this cabinet, with Probation and Parole and re-entry programs that we can advocate and implement. We have improved recidivism, but it remains stubborn in some sense. There is so much drug-related crime, if you don't treat the root cause — the addiction — when offenders leave that prison cell, they still are addicted, and that will lead to more crime. For those with substance abuse and mental health issues, relapse and recidivism are inevitable without intervention and treatment.

I've seen the use of more evidence-based policy — things we know work. Instead of making decisions just on our gut and what we think might work or sounds good, we are using data. We have more data now than ever. We have crime rates, crime statistics and offender data. We can use risk assessment and any number of scientific tools to predict and assess situations and make smarter decisions. That's where the Smart on Crime movement comes in. You see folks from all over the political spectrum for the first time in my lifetime, coming together on this. That's exciting because there are not many areas of government where you can say that. There are coalitions I've worked with for six to eight years, and more forming every day and coming together in ways they've never come together. You have folks from Right on Crime to the ACLU joining forces to examine this.

Law enforcement has a critical role in this. I want this cabinet to help with that all-important national discussion.

Kentucky is on a national stage. A lot of our legislation has been modeled elsewhere. One of many examples of this was our response to the threat of synthetic drugs. Law enforcement came to me first in 2010. We were the second state in the country to ban synthetic drugs. We followed up with legislation when we learned more. Our synthetic drug bill has been the national model. Our approach to prescription drugs and pill mills also is a national model. I've had the pleasure of testifying on the national level for both bills.

Our approach to the Smart on Crime initiative to modernize drug laws and focus on reentry and recidivism has been modeled. We continue to set the standard. With prescription drugs, KASPER clearly is the gold standard. Our pretrial system is the gold standard. In law enforcement, we've worked with our judges and our stakeholders to make sure we're retaining the right people and releasing those who can make it in the community. Our numbers bear that out. If you look at any measure of public policy — are we spending tax payer dollars wisely to get the best result in public safety? We're doing better than so many others, and that's why we've garnered this national attention.

From my former seat as judiciary chair, a difficult part of that job was bringing together stakeholders who had different goals and perspectives. For example, I might be in discussion with law enforcement and the Cabinet for Health and Family Services on an issue that they view totally differently. I had to work to meld those points of view and help the each stakeholder understand the other perspective. As policy makers, it's our job to build consensus to get the best public policy. We've done that over and over. Sometimes that leads others who are fighting in the trenches every day, working as hard as humanly possible, to make things better. As a prosecutor, I may have seen things one way, and someone in another trench may have seen it differently. And that's why it's important to bring all stakeholders to the table. That's why Kentucky has had success.

As recently as 2007, we were identified as having some numbers in our state with regard to criminal-justice issues that did not cast us in a positive light. Now, we can show we've addressed those things. We still have a lot of work to do. But through

our approach to a number of these problems, we've been able to drive the national discussion.

We currently are being recognized for our work in juvenile justice. You can look at four states that are the subject of a lot of discussion on our work — Texas, Georgia, Hawaii and Kentucky. Currently the U.S. Attorney General's Office is analyzing our work and has a lot of positive things to say about what we've done. We've dropped detention rates by more than 60 percent and, at the same time, juvenile crime is decreasing. Each bed in a juvenile detention center costs \$100,000 per year, compared to each adult bed that roughly is \$22,000. If we can cut that rate as we've done, those funds can be used in so many other ways. When you are fighting for every dollar in the public-safety system, you need to make sure you are using those dollars wisely. We have a responsibility to tax payers to maintain public safety in the most efficient way possible.

I'm a huge believer that we have to continue this discussion. The momentum is there, as you see with the increase in the stipend from KLEFPF. That's something I've advocated for some time and am pleased to see it in the budget. I am pleased to see raises for the men and women in the state police. To the extent that cities and counties can continue a discussion about increasing pay for men and women in law enforcement, it's critical for the retention of officers who want advancement in the field. We need good, experienced people to remain in law enforcement throughout their careers. I think we're having that discussion, and I think it's headed in the right direction. When you can save money and enhance public safety, you can reinvest that money into salaries for law enforcement, treatment for drug offenders and better reentry >>

“We need good, experienced people to remain in law enforcement throughout their careers. I think we're having that discussion, and I think it's headed in the right direction.”



PHOTO BY JIM ROBERTSON

>> and recidivism efforts to drive re-offense rates down and share the wealth of those savings across the entire spectrum.

What is your vision for the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet, and how do you plan to incorporate it into the six departments housed within the cabinet?

It’s a goal of this administration and this cabinet to be as accountable, transparent and responsible as possible. I think it’s a duty we owe our commonwealth and the tax payers who live here. My vision would be a Justice and Public Safety Cabinet that protects citizens, reforms wrong doers and restores victims of crime. If you do those things, everything else will fall into place.

Corrections — We need to strengthen Probation and Parole and continue advances in reentry. It’s our job to make sure the parole board is made up of the best people, and they use the best policies. We want to recruit and retain corrections officers. We have tremendous turnover at DOC. Within that framework, we want to improve drug treatment and programs we run to help reform offenders and get them back on their feet.

KSP — We talked about increasing pay, but another issue that is important to all law enforcement is the crime lab. I couldn’t be more pleased to see funding to eliminate DNA back logs and funding to replace 1950s-style equipment that still exists over there. The next phase is to increase salaries of those who work in the labs. We are woefully behind other states. The governor and I agree we often are ‘a penny wise and a pound foolish’ because we pay less and cost our tax payers more when we lose good, qualified people who we have paid to train and who have a wealth of experience and expertise. There is a cost to losing those qualified people that can’t be recouped until we decide we are going to retain them.

Juvenile Justice — Within the first three weeks I was on the job, we had a tragedy with a young lady who passed away in one of our juvenile facilities. That has affected me like nothing else I’ve ever dealt with in my time in public service. We promised to be accountable, transparent and responsive to the family. We are committed to that promise. After meeting with the family, we released findings from three concurrent investigations. We brought in

11 pathologists, nine of them forensic, and engaged the Mayo Medical Laboratories to get to the cause of death for this young lady. The consensus is that her death was from natural causes.

We also used our own internal investigations branch to investigate staff misconduct — even if it was not related to her death. But we were transparent. We continue to look into our internal policies and procedures.

KSP also performed a death investigation. They turned their findings over to a grand jury who returned two indictments for second degree official misconduct because employees failed to make the required bed checks and lied about it. However, the state police found no foul play related to her death.

Public Advocacy — Prosecutors and public defenders have come together like never before. They are working under this banner that until they are properly funded and working together, criminal justice will never be whole and never see the results the public needs. The system has to work. That’s what our framers intended, and we have to drive that from this cabinet.

DOCJT — We need to continue the excellent reputation we have for training. We have a national reputation for it. As we get through this budget we need to continue to advocate for the stipend increase from KLEFPF, and continue the work that’s been done.

Drug Control Policy — We have to use the successes we’ve had in drug policy and use that office to drive the discussion. We have to be strategic in our approach to heroin. We have to have the right minds around the table, and it needs to start from our Office of Drug Control Policy. We maintain dialog with law enforcement, the courts, behavioral health systems and hospitals all across the state in an effort to build intellectual capital needed to drive good public policy. There is no better place to drive the discussion than from here. It doesn’t need to be one person in one corner of the state, we have to come together to continue this discussion.

There is a lot of opportunity in this cabinet. In light of what’s going on around the country and around the world, homeland security and national security obviously are huge concerns. We’ve had discussions and intelligence will come together

like never before. We will have an open dialogue and continue our meetings with homeland security, and try to coordinate all the intelligence efforts we have in the state. It’s critical we treat this issue with the importance and urgency it deserves.

What is your leadership philosophy?

I believe in servant leadership. At heart, I’m a people person. I think it’s critical to empower good people to do good things. I wouldn’t ask anyone to do anything I wouldn’t do or haven’t done. One of the things the governor and I talked about is the need to show folks how much we appreciate the work being done — face to face. We want to show our workforce we are engaged, visible and listening. Toward that end, we have a Justice Listens email address now.

My ombudsman for the cabinet is responsible for listening to anyone who wants to make a suggestion. We think this is the right place to start. We are not just here just to listen and take complaints or suggestions, but to engage people, to get out in the field, to get in the car and drive to western Kentucky, eastern Kentucky and everywhere in between. We need to be fanning out every day from here in Frankfort and touching each agency and department in ways that let them know how much we appreciate them and care, and that we’ll be checking in to make sure things are running properly.

While we promise accountability, we also demand it from ourselves. My philosophy is to demand accountability and foster approachability. The last thing I want people to say is that I’m not approachable. My door is open and always has been. I want to know that all 8,000-plus employees who are in the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet know that we’re all in this together.

The governor and I have discussed the thousands of emails his office received during the transition, suggesting how we can do things better. We also received complaints, which if constructive, can lead to improvement, progress and the elimination of problems. We will listen to complaints, suggestions, compliments or comments exposing things we need to know. Sunshine is the best disinfectant. We need to be as open and transparent as possible.

What do you see as the most pressing issues for you to tackle for

the advancement of Kentucky law enforcement community? What are the biggest obstacles in your path to overcoming these issues?

Officer safety trumps all other issues. As important as officer pay is, officer safety is No. 1. By addressing public safety, we address that. What can we do specifically? I don’t profess to be the expert in that field, but we need to bring in and listen to those who can help us keep our men and women safe — whether safe in their cars, or in the field — ensuring they have the latest equipment and the best training. But it’s not just to keep them safe, but to ensure they can present the best case. To make certain they are trained well — and I think they are. We have the best in the country, but we need to continue that tradition.

In light of what’s going on nationally, I want us to be held out as an example of how to do it right. Some of the national criticism toward law enforcement isn’t directed toward Kentucky, and we have avoided it for good reason. I think Kentucky could be a model of how to lead in the law enforcement field. I’m excited for what the future holds for law enforcement in this state given where we are.

But I cannot stress officer safety enough. I have so many letters from grieving families. I’ve been to too many memorials and services through the years. I’ve listened, and I think each and every one of us that feels safe in our community can thank law enforcement and the system we have today. I think it is time to focus on public safety and on individual officer safety.

The governor’s budget addressed long-held concerns of Kentucky’s police community. How does this initial support boost the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet, and how do you see these potential changes affecting Kentucky peace officers?

The goal I have for the cabinet is making sure we do all we can to foster an environment where we can retain the best we have, and there are opportunities for advancements and for officers to better themselves and provide for their families.

Applications for various law enforcement agencies across the country are down. We have to foster an environment where that’s not the case. We need to reverse that trend and begin making it an attractive career path for young people. We

have to ensure the best and brightest want to get into law enforcement where we need them, and that there are opportunities to provide for a family in a reasonable way. We have to ensure that officer safety is prioritized so when they come into the career they feel they have the best opportunity to keep themselves safe. And beyond that, they can move and advance.

I think through the efforts you see in this year’s budget, you can see the philosophy and dedication to move in that direction. It can’t happen overnight; resources are limited, and you can’t turn the ship that quickly. But we can build morale, recruit the best and make progress toward our ultimate goals.

Kentucky law enforcement has made dramatic strides forward in the past 20 years with the advent of POPS, hiring standards, training curriculum, etc. How do you consider those changes, particularly in comparison with other states, and what further advances do you envision under your watch?

Kentucky’s reputation is tremendous in the law enforcement community. That’s not to say that we can’t maintain and continue to advance. I think in line with all the issues we’ve seen before, our focus should be officer safety and officer pay, along with a priority on public safety and a return on investment so we can reinvest savings that otherwise wouldn’t exist back into the system to benefit stakeholders. Wins for public safety are wins for law enforcement. It increases public confidence in what we do.

We haven’t felt the national public scrutiny in Kentucky because of the tremendous work we do here — but we need to continue to build public confidence in what we do here in law enforcement. That has to be driven by the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet, KSP and DOCJT.

Furthermore, the crime lab is something that affects every single stakeholder in the criminal justice system, and it has not been a priority for some time. When I was the judiciary chair, we held a meeting at the laboratory every year to bring focus on the needs of the crime lab, which are many. It’s become about the DNA backlog and the issue of sexual assault evidence kits, but we’ve been signaling that alarm for years and there are other issues as well. When you have a 1950s-style piece of equipment — and it malfunctions, and there is no way to fix it — that is inexcusable. We’re lucky to be in one of the five to 10 safest states in the country. However, the drug scourge here is one of the worst in the country and continues to drive drug and drug-related crime. Our crime lab is an important tool to combat the drug problem, and I’m concerned that underfunding hampers our efforts.

In short, we need to focus on people and equipment. Proper investments in retaining the best and brightest, and providing them with the necessary tools, will ensure justice and undoubtedly enhance public safety. 🙌

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Gone too soon

This year's ceremony honored nine Kentucky officers who lost their lives in the line of duty:

Daniel Ellis, *Richmond Police Department*, died Nov. 6, 2015

Cameron Ponder, *Kentucky State Police*, died Sept. 13, 2015

Eric Chrisman, *Kentucky State Police*, died June 23, 2015

Burke Rhoads, *Nicholasville Police Department*, died March 11, 2015

Anson B. Tribby, *Kentucky State Police*, died Jan. 22, 2013

Alford Holland, *Hazard Police Department*, died Dec. 6, 1922

Rory J. Draughn, *Hazard Police Department*, died Dec. 18, 1913

John R. Russell, *Harrodsburg Police Department*, died April 25, 1896

George W. James, *Georgetown Police Department*, died Oct. 22, 1893

Gov. Matt Bevin addresses the gathered families, friends and comrades of Kentucky's fallen officers, reminding them their sacrifices will not be forgotten. "I am grateful to you, and as the governor of this state, I want you to know I will have your back," he said, in support of all Kentucky law enforcement.



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH THOMAS

Melissa Rhoads (second from left), wife of fallen Nicholasville Police Officer Burke Rhoads, receives an American flag in his honor during the Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial Ceremony in Richmond. To Rhoads' right are Dawn Chrisman, mother of fallen Kentucky State Police Trooper Eric Chrisman, Brenda Tiffany, mother of fallen KSP Trooper Cameron Ponder, and Katie Ellis, wife of fallen Richmond Police Officer Daniel Ellis.



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH THOMAS

▼ Members of the Richmond Police Department stand at attention before performing the 21-gun salute.



PHOTO BY KEVIN BRUMFIELD



Nancy Ellis, mother of fallen Richmond Police Officer Daniel Ellis, traces her son's name now etched into the Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial monument.

PHOTO BY ELIZABETH THOMAS



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH THOMAS



Laurie Sticklen silently remembers her husband, whose name was added to the Kentucky memorial in 2012. Alexandria Police Officer James Sticklen died of a pulmonary embolism on March 4, 2011, leaving behind his wife and three children.

PHOTO BY KEVIN BRUMFIELD



Katie Ellis, wife of fallen Richmond Police Officer Daniel Ellis, talks fondly of the husband and father she and her son have lost.

PHOTO BY KEVIN BRUMFIELD



The Kentucky Horse Park Mounted Patrol attended the 17th annual KLEMF ceremony on horseback.

PHOTO BY ELIZABETH THOMAS



PHOTO BY KEVIN BRUMFIELD





The Four-Legged OFFICER



ABBIE DARST | PROGRAM COORDINATOR
PHOTOS BY JIM ROBERTSON



“They are not bred to be house dogs,” said Lexington K-9 Senior Handler Brian Burnette. “They are working dogs.”

After 12 years in Lexington Police Department’s Canine Unit, and handling three different dogs, Burnette knows very well the ins, outs, ups and downs of the dirty, demanding and desirable career of a K-9 handler.

“I always wanted to be a cop, but in high school a Kentucky State Police trooper brought a dog in to do a demonstration and I thought, ‘I want to be a dog handler,’” Burnette recalled. I can be a cop and have this specialized area. I first applied and interviewed for a K-9 position when I was still on probation. I knew I wouldn’t get it, but the more I learned, the more I knew that’s what I wanted to do.”

But just like Burnette knew from the beginning of his police career exactly what he wanted to do, his K-9 partner, Garik, was bred and groomed from six weeks old to be the best officer he could be.

THE START OF A CAREER

Most canines currently serving in law enforcement were born in Europe and sold to one of many working-dog kennels in the United States when they were about one year old. The most popular breeds of law enforcement K-9 are Belgian Malinois, Dutch Shepherd and German Shepherd, said Hopkinsville Master Handler Raymond Beaird.

“In Europe, it is a sport to breed working dogs — we play baseball, they raise dogs,” Beaird said of why the best working dogs come from European countries. “It is a prestige thing over there, and there are families who have done it for generations.”

“They breed dogs like we breed horses here in Kentucky,” Lexington Canine Trainer Henry Hicks agreed. “There is no magic pill for it, but they have the good temperament and the good blood lines.”

After some initial familiarity training so the young pups can develop a drive to work and know what a bite sleeve is, they are ready for purchase between 14 months and 2 years old.

“We like to get them at 2 years, but that doesn’t always happen,” Hicks said. “The first pick (from the kennel we use) normally goes to the military. We’re lucky if we get one that is 14 months old. At 2 they are out of the puppy stage and physically developed.”

“And you know their attitude,” Burnette added.

It is at this stage that the career path for the dog and handler merge — the day a new handler gets to choose his new dog, partner and friend. Paducah Police K-9 Handler Lofton Rowley Jr. remembers everything about the day he met Fox. In the training barn at Vohne Liche kennels in Denver, Ind., Rowley was third in line to choose his K-9 partner, behind new handlers from Hopkinsville and Christian County agencies.

“They brought out the first dog and the handler from Christian County liked him and selected him,” Rowley said. “Fox was second and when he came around the corner angels started singing and there was a halo above his head — I knew in an instant that was my dog.

“He went around and did his thing and he did awesome,” he continued. “The Hopkinsville guy put a leash on him and took him out and I was just heartbroken, thinking I just lost him. The next dog comes out >>

The Most Popular Breeds of Law Enforcement K-9’s

PHOTOS COURTESY OF 123RF.COM



Belgian Malinois



Dutch Shepherd



German Shepherd

▼ Paducah Police K-9 Officer Lofton Rowley Jr. knew at first sight that Fox was the perfect dog for him. That feeling was solidified when he brought Fox home and his Vohne Liche kennel-issued collar number was the same as his badge number — 278. The hard-working, people-loving K-9 has been a perfect match for Rowley for the past five years.



>> and I'm not even watching him, I'm just watching Fox out in the outside kennel. He sees me and says, 'If you want that dog, we're not selecting him, I'm just helping out the trainers.' So I got to pick Fox."

And if singing angels weren't enough to seal the deal for Rowley, once he got the dog home and had him about a week, he decided to remove the standard leather collar Fox had been given when he first arrived at the kennel to replace it.

"My badge number is 278, and those are given to us sequentially when we're hired," Rowley said. "And when the dogs are brought in, they also are numbered in order, with the year, a dash and their order number."

"When I took off Fox's collar, his number was 10-278," he continued. "That was fate, and we've been together ever since."

Ensuring that a dog's temperament and personality match that of its handler as well as the needs of the department is imperative, Beaird said.

"You just have to pick the right dog," he said. "They may have 200 dogs on site, but I pick the one that is best for us. Depending on the community needs for a dog is how the dog should be picked. ... I will only pick

what's right for our department. It's like hiring a police officer — you pick the best from the process."

Vohne Liche kennels also offers a one-year warranty for workability, under which any dog can be returned within the year if it is not up to par, and no questions asked the agency can pick a new dog, Beaird explained.

Once the dog is selected, the handler and K-9 go through basic training, either at the kennel where the dog was purchased or, if the agency has a master handler or trainer on staff, they can opt to provide the training at the department. Basic training at Vohne Liche Kennels is five weeks long. Then, upon returning to the department, like any new officer, the K-9 team goes through an FTO training program to further learn the job, learn about each other and become a solid, successful team.

In Lexington, Hicks guides new dogs and handlers through their 16-week training program, which includes both the basic and FTO portions of training.

ALL WORK AND ALL PLAY

After the initial training is complete, canines and their handlers hit the road,

focusing on calls where the dog's skills will be most useful, such as robberies in progress, burglaries, disturbances, missing persons and narcotic searches.

"They're all about patterning," said Lexington Police Handler Tim Moore. "When their handler comes in, they know they are supposed to go to work. When they hear our sirens and see the lights come on, they sit up, pay attention and know they are getting ready to do something they like."

All canines are trained on a reward system, where they have a particular toy — a tennis ball, a Kong, a rubber ball on a rope — that they would do just about anything to get the chance to play with. For these four-legged officers, going to work and doing a good job in finding the hidden drugs, seeking out the lost teen or tracking down the fleeing perpetrator allows them to play with their absolute favorite toy. For them, it's worth it every time.

"These dogs are like professional athletes because everything they do is 100 percent," Beaird said. "They give all they have all the time."

Officers talk about the dog getting 'turned on' when they hear loud screaming or yelling or their human handler puts on his or her uniform and walks them toward the cruiser. But more than anything, the dogs react to the emotions of their handlers, Lexington's Burnette said.

"Every emotion you have feeds right down the leash," he said. "The [dogs] read off our body language, and you can see a little change in the dog — their mouth will shut, they'll stare, their ears will change a little bit, they start panting. A lot of those are very environmental."

"But the dog picks up that if daddy grabs my collar and starts screaming real loud, it hypes them up and they realize that if I find someone in here he's going to be the bad guy," Burnette continued.

But just like the canines, the officers with whom they share their shift are in the position 100 percent as well — and it's not always easy. >>

▲ Lexington Police K-9 Handler Brian Burnette and his dog, Garik, practice jumping over multiple types of barriers he may encounter while on patrol. The series of jumping obstacles is just one of many components of Lexington's Canine Unit training course located behind their kennels.

► Hopkinsville Police Master Handler Raymond Beaird demonstrates the work drive and training of the agency's newest K-9, Athos. Beaird, who has served with the HPD K-9 unit for 13 years, says he looks for a dog that can stand on its own four feet and not be afraid of anything.

Keeping cool

Keeping police canines safe while spending countless hours in the back of a patrol car goes a lot further than providing the animals just a bowl of water. Many police K-9 units have some variation of a heat alert system. These systems deliver an audible alarm and flashing lights if the inside of the car gets too hot, activating a fan to kick on and a window to open remotely. Systems like these help prevent police dogs from dying of heat stroke while in hot vehicles. ■

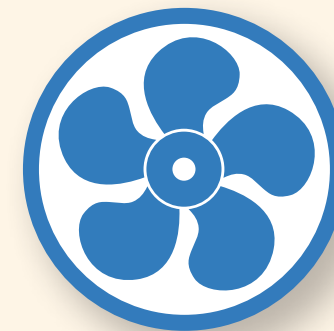




PHOTO BY JIM ROBERTSON

▲ Lexington's Canine Unit conducts large trainings once a month to expose handlers and canines to situations they may not encounter every day. Here, K-9 Officer Jack Hoskins practices shooting and reloading single handedly while maintaining control of his K-9, Destro. Destro also is learning to develop a neutral reaction to live gunfire.

>> "It's a dirty, physical job," Lexington's Moore said. "You're either injured or filthy every day. Your car smells. But it's awesome to catch someone. The most rewarding thing is to see your dog do all the things they have been taught and to do them right."

"People in this unit are adrenaline junkies, and they love it," Hicks added.

Handlers in almost any K-9 unit has at least one story where they, with their dog, were able to do something that couldn't have been done otherwise, and how much pride they take in those moments.

For Beaird and Chopper in Hopkinsville, it was finding a 13-year-old missing girl in the middle of winter who had been missing for hours. For Burnette and Garik in Lexington it was tracking down a rapist.

"That definitely was my most rewarding catch," Burnette said. "He did horrible things, and the dog gave me the ability to be able [to catch him]."

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

Just like any officer, the K-9 officer has to continue to train, and constantly learn, apply and improve his skills. The federal standard is 16 hours of continuous training each month. In Hopkinsville, their four-dog unit trains together at least two Wednesdays each month, but often train all four Wednesdays, for a total of 40 hours.

The unit also trains with Fort Campbell handlers.

In Lexington, their 10-dog unit conducts detection training every week and three days during the week, the entire unit is on duty and participates in group training. Then once a month they conduct a large training on something that the dogs don't regularly get exposed to, such as taking them to the range and helping them learn to stay calm and settled during live gunfire.

Paducah's three-dog unit trains for four hours each week, in addition to training with three to four other local agencies.

But, actually, all K-9 teams train every single day — on their own, between calls. They practice their skills, further develop their obedience and advance their abilities during any down time they have on shift.

"We don't just want to keep them fresh, we want to advance our dogs," Beaird said. "If a dog's testing is to track for 400 yards on multiple surfaces, then we'll start to push that out to a mile. In obedience, if I can walk away for one minute, then I'll try two minutes. Then I'll go out of sight, and he has to lay still."

"I just keep pushing our canines and our handlers," he continued.

Lexington has a full training facility behind their kennels. They are able to train their canines on skills such as climbing ladders, jumping over numerous types of

walls and fences and searching for suspects holed up in small spaces.

AT THE END OF THE DAY

But just as importantly as consistent and mandated training, ensuring these dogs have a rest period is vital to the life of the canine.

"When we have new dogs and handlers, I want them to understand that home is rest time, it's not work time," Beaird said.

What that down time looks like for each dog and handler relationship varies greatly, depending on agency protocol, the dog's temperament and the handler's family dynamic.

Lexington's kennels are the off-duty resting location for their canines. Officers leave their dogs there after duty.

"These dogs are active and to have them in your house, they are like Tasmanian devils," Moore said.

In addition, having them in kennels is beneficial if someone goes on vacation or is away at training, other officers don't have to go to the officer's house to take care of the dog, and all the dogs are very comfortable around all the handlers in the unit, allowing them to come and go and feed anyone's dog without any issues, Hicks said.

But many departments don't have the facility to have a kennel for their canine unit. In Hopkinsville, their dogs go home with the officer each day, but Beaird said all their dogs are housed in outside kennels so they can get used to temperatures and extremes on their bodies, allowing them to grow fur in the winter and not overheat in the summer.

Rowley's K-9, Fox, lives inside with him and his family of five, though he did not always live inside.

"He's almost 7 now, and he's just a family dog at home," Rowley said. "He craves attention, follows you to the bathroom, tries to get in the shower with you and lies at your feet. But if someone shows up that he doesn't know, he's very protective."

But no matter the off-duty accommodations, eventually every K-9 reaches an age where they can no longer do the job, or they lose the drive to do the job to the best of their ability. For many canines, this age comes around 8 or 9 years old. But several agencies have had dogs continue working until age 10.

"We would never work a dog past 10," Lexington's Hicks said. "We let them go on to be a dog and enjoy life before they pass. They have a good life here, but it's not the same as laying on a couch sleeping."

"They give so many years of their life working and tracking, and they deserve a retirement," Burnette added.

Paducah gives their handlers the option of purchasing their K-9 from the department for \$1 when the dog is ready to retire, Rowley said.

And most departments follow similar protocol, allowing handlers the option to adopt their K-9 partner to become a permanent family pet when they can no longer work. If the handler does not want to or cannot accept the responsibility that comes with accommodating an aging dog, the other members of the unit or other officers who used to work in the K-9 unit are given the opportunity to take the dog.

Because the working life of a K-9 is much shorter than that of an officer, officers often retire their dogs and go on to get brand new dogs and the whole process starts all over.

"The hardest part of switching is their personalities are all different," Burnette said. "Now you're dealing with something that acts and thinks differently than you're used to. And the handler can't do the same things with the next dog and they have to adjust their handling a little bit."

"Just like people, they have strengths and lesser areas and you have to work to improve in different areas, and as they get older they don't require as much maintenance handling," he continued. "So when you go back, it's like becoming a new handler, too."

But because these officers are 100-percent sold on this grimy and gratifying career, they know that the challenges in a new canine-handler relationship will soon be replaced by a strong bond between dog and officer that is full of joy, fun, excitement, love and respect.

"This is not a unit that has a lot of openings," Moore said. "We love what we do here, we get along with the other people, and we are just one big family."

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PHOTOS BY JIM ROBERTSON

▲ Paducah K-9 Fox demonstrates a passive alert when he discovers the scent of narcotics hidden in this truck.



▲ Paducah K-9 Officer Lofton Rowley Jr. has developed a close relationship with Fox. After five and a half years together, Rowley says Fox is just part of his family now.

The K-9 Investment

A K-9 unit can be a big investment for a department. Not including the officer's salary or overtime care for the dog, here are some average costs for outfitting one K-9 team.

- **\$7,000+** for the dual-purpose dog
- **\$2,000 to \$3,000** for the initial training
- **\$5,000 to \$42,000** to outfit a new car with the cage; brand new fully outfitted SUV
- **\$1,000** for food, treats, bedding, kennel per year
- **\$1,000** for vet bills, monthly medication (flea/heartworm/etc.), emergency care
- **\$1,500** for annual recertification (travel, tuition)
- **\$1,500** for training aids: narcotics or explosives, safe, etc. ■

What can you learn from jumping rope on a sunny afternoon with a little girl in your arms?

Frisbees flying, hot dogs grilling, laughter shared and relationships kindled. It doesn't sound much like a typical first shift afternoon. For the Hopkinsville Police Department, a community cookout that drew more than 200 citizens near the city's housing projects did more than fill some hungry bellies. It's one part of a greater vision that has led the 114-person department to realize it's mission of working in partnership with citizens to enhance the quality of life.

You won't hear the phrase "community policing" come out of Hopkinsville Police Chief Clayton Sumner's mouth. Unless it's to say that's not what his police department does. But if you take a look at his officers' activities over the past year, you would see them playing in a basketball game against a group of school children to raise money for the local Boys and Girls club. You'd read about a football camp, led by HPD officers who played at both the NFL and college level, that began with some pizza and t-shirts and has grown into an opportunity to reach a unique group of kids learning about more than football.

Community policing in Hopkinsville is just policing. Bringing the police department and community together has become part of the agency's daily fabric. Altogether, the Hopkinsville Police Department participated in more than 100 community events in 2015, Sumner said.

"If you want to know what community policing is, come spend a week here and we will show you," Sumner challenged. "If the whole organization isn't bought in, what good is it?" >>

PHOTO BY JIM ROBERTSON



GOOD *TO* GREAT

Hopkinsville Police Department





>> Implementing department-wide participation in community events was a goal that began only last year, Sumner said. Everyone — from the cleaning staff to the chief — is involved. In the beginning, Sumner said there was a little grumbling about adding to the officers' regular activities.

"Now everybody looks forward to it," he said. "It has just become an everyday part of life."

Sumner was appointed interim police chief in the fall of 2014, and officially accepted the title just four months later. He knew early on that immersing the department deeper into the community was a goal he wanted to pursue, but finding the right way to do it took some time. The process began with in-depth research into the demands on an officer's time during any given shift.

"How long does it take to take a burglary report?" Sumner asked. "What about writing a ticket? Legal advice? We need to know what our officers are doing, how long they spend on a call, how long on breaks, how long on self-initiated activity. We spent months breaking down calls to come up with the time frames, and then asked, 'How long do we want them to be involved in the community out of their day?'"

The agency already had many typical community activities, such as a citizens' police academy and coffee with a cop. But typical activities tend to attract a typical crowd — a group of citizens Sumner felt were not the ones who always needed to hear the message the police department needed to share.

"I started wondering, how do I break away from that?" Sumner asked. "My friends and family don't need to be convinced that we are doing a good job. We are always trying to reach out to people we haven't reached out to yet.

"That first cookout with a cop, I can't get it out of my head," Sumner continued. "I'm holding this little girl, jumping rope, praying I don't fall. It was such a large turnout and I kept thinking, 'This is what we have to do.'"

◀ Hopkinsville Police Chief Clayton Sumner has served as the agency head since he was appointed interim chief in fall 2014, and his position was made official just four months later. He has served the agency since 2002.

Policing smarter

Between tossing a football and grilling hamburgers, it may sound like HPD's officers have little time to enforce the law. But that couldn't be further from the truth.

When Sumner and his staff studied the amount of time spent by each officer on an average shift, carving out time for them to participate in activities meant finding smarter ways to answer calls and investigate crime. The department has done that by adopting the Focus on Four crime reduction plan, Sumner said — a policing philosophy proven in Tampa, Fla. to have reduced crime by an astonishing 64 percent over nine years.

Sumner and Deputy Chief Michael Seis heard about Focus on Four during a chief's conference and were impressed by the common-sense policing style it promised.

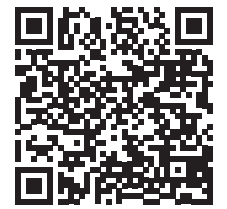
"It is quite impressive," Sumner said of the philosophy. "Seis and I talked about the possibility of how it would work in Hopkinsville and went to [then-Chief] Guy Howie and explained how we thought it could make an impact. He blessed it and allowed us to start implementing these

ideas. It took some time, but over the past two years we have seen a 20 percent decrease in crime."

The Focus on Four philosophy uses "four guiding components that target four high-volume pattern crimes," according to the Tampa Police website. Those components are redistribution of tactical resources, intelligence-led policing, proactive and preventative policing initiatives and partnering with the community.

In Hopkinsville, the four crimes Sumner and Seis believed they could impact were shoplifting, theft from vehicles, burglary and robbery. Some of the strategies used to impact these crimes are as simple as using parked cruisers in high-collision areas to reduce speeding and using social media to involve citizens in catching criminals. Others are more in-depth, such as offender tracking and, of course, their developed community partnerships.

Because of the agency's size — 78 of their 114 employees are sworn officers — Sumner said the department has developed a number of opportunities for officers to meet their goals. Non-sworn public >>



▲ Scan this QR code with your smartphone or visit <http://www.tampagov.net/sites/default/files/police/files/2011-fof.pdf> for details about the Focus on Four crime reduction plan.

▼ Hopkinsville Police Chief Clayton Sumner, center, plays with local children during the 2015 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. march in Hopkinsville. Sumner is committed to the department being an integrated part of the community.



“I believe we police at the will of the community. It is hard for some officers to swallow what that means. When you look at Ferguson, [Mo.], they no longer have the ability to police the community, because the community no longer accepts them.”

▼ Hopkinsville Police Officer Adam Robertson said the external load bearing vest has helped reduce pressure on his hips and back. “We love them,” Robertson said of the vests.

► Hopkinsville Police Detective Brian Smith is trained as a polygrapher, a skillset which has dual purposes for the agency. HPD Chief Clayton Sumner said having an on-staff polygrapher adds an investigation tool to interrogations as well as speeding up the hiring process by polygraphing new recruits.



» safety officers work wrecks, take fingerprints and other minor reports that free full-time sworn officers to do other work. Three school resource officers work local middle and elementary schools while another officer serves as a mentor and runs the Gang Resistance Education and Training program for local students.

HPD is home to the local 911 dispatch center. The agency has two traffic units on motorcycles, two International Crimes Against Children officers, a full-time polygrapher, three chaplains, a SWAT team and drug strike force. The agency also employs four K-9 officers, including a bomb dog, Sumner said.

“Am I worried about drugs in schools?” Sumner asked. “Absolutely. But I am terrified of guns in schools. I’m really worried about guns on our campuses and that is one thing the bomb dog can detect, especially when we have big events.

(See more about HPD’s K-9s on p. 20).

“We have just about everything,” Sumner continued. “We are just the right size to be able to have a variety of units.”

Looking to the future

Another group Sumner said has been instrumental in returning the department’s staffing to full strength has been the recruitment team, which allowed the agency to meet many of its goals. Whether it is attending job fairs at Fort Campbell or talking to local gyms about women who may be interested in a policing career, Sumner said finding the best men and women to serve at HPD is a top priority.



“Recruitment is not what it was two decades ago,” Sumner said. “How dare us sit around and expect the right person to walk in the door and ask for a job. Hell no — we need to go find them. I think it’s only going to get harder because of the retirement system. So how do we make sure we are attracting the right people?”

Part of that puzzle connects in how the police department brands itself, he said.

“Our brand has to be how we do everything,” Sumner said. “It is how our customers perceive us. In such, we have to work to build a brand that defines us before someone else does it for us. It needs to be a well-thought out process. HPD is the brand, our staff is the brand, our social media, our materials we put out — all that is our brand. As the chief, I should establish the vision and mission for the department. But it can’t stop there. I must assure every member throughout the agency clearly understands that vision as well as how their role plays into defining the HPD brand.”

Selling the brand means knowing your employees and having a good understanding of your community’s needs, Sumner said.

“I believe we police at the will of the community,” he said. “It is hard for some officers to swallow what that means. When you look at Ferguson, [Mo.], they no longer have the ability to police the community, because the community no longer accepts them. In every community there are smaller communities, and those needs often differ from one community to another. Recognizing the needs of those we serve helps to assure we truly are working in collaboration to solve community problems. It takes all of us to make this city great.”

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► Hopkinsville Police Officer Cory Smith, one of the agency’s newest K-9 handlers, also wears an external load bearing vest. The police department sought this particular style of vest for their officers in an effort to reduce the cost associated with officer injuries and fatigue as well as to promote a healthier environment and increase officer wellbeing.



A New Weapon in the Fight Against Opiates

KYLE EDELEN | PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER, U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, EASTERN DISTRICT

On July 1, 2015, EMS notified the Versailles Police Department about a death from an accidental drug overdose. But, they weren't asking for an investigation; rather, they were requesting help with disposing of the drug evidence.

When Sgt. Matthew Mitchell arrived at the scene, the story took an interesting turn. While cleaning up the drug paraphernalia, the sergeant spotted the cell phone of the overdose victim, Jolene Bowman. The phone was pass-word protected, but a fresh text message was visible on the home screen. The author of the message was some-one Mitchell recognized.

When Mitchell showed the text to investigator Keith Ford, Ford also recognized the name — Gill DeWayne

Garrett, a known drug dealer in the area. The text Garrett sent Bowman read, "Are you happy?"

At that point, Ford normally would have just alerted the Commonwealth Attorney's Office about the evidence, because of an ongoing state drug case against Garrett.

Instead, Ford varied from his normal routine in dealing with overdose deaths. He called Assistant U.S. Attorney Todd Bradbury and informed him of the situation. Ironically, at the same time Bowman was taking the drugs that killed her — provided by Garrett — Ford was attending training in which Bradbury and U.S. Attorney Kerry Harvey were discussing an initiative designed to increase prosecutions of drug-overdose cases under tough federal laws. The training emphasized the need to treat the site of an overdose death as a crime scene. >>



PHOTO PROVIDED BY 123RF.COM

A PLEA FOR UNDERSTANDING

A letter addressed to a law enforcement officer,
from a family member who lost a loved one to a drug overdose.

Dear Officer:

I'm sorry we had to meet this way.

I'm sorry your day was troubled and you missed your lunch due to my sister's terrible decision to take a fatal dose of drugs. I'm sorry you couldn't leave to see your little girl's school play and you have to come up with another excuse to give her because the truth is too difficult to explain. I'm sorry the only part of my sister's life you know is the manner in which she died. You will only know the little blond tag-along I grew up with as the slumped over, wrecked girl with a needle next to her, or perhaps by the case number which has little meaning, or you might even think of her as the cause of a great deal of unnecessary work.

I'm sorry every time I call, you regret answering the phone. I don't intend to be emotional when I ask for answers I know you don't have; it just happens. My brain knows you're doing what you can with what you have, but my heart can't accept the sluggishness of reality. I'm sorry about my constant questions, and I'm sorry my lack of understanding of your explanations causes me to be angry and hostile. I'm terribly frustrated and I understand you are too, but my grief clouds my judgment and loosens my control. My guilt lashes out at you, because I can't get to the sound place in my mind that tells me, realistically, this is not my fault, and the truth is she was an addict and the addiction consumed her. I'm left with the awareness that I am not an addict and yet, it still consumes me.

I know your job wears on you and oftentimes you may feel you go unnoticed and unappreciated for all the effort you put into your cases, but I do notice and I do appreciate what you do. I've seen the things you've seen, and I know how taxing and cumbersome it is to hold in the incredible urge to distance it and banish it from your mind. Your hands are tied and your efforts seem wasted and unrecognized, but I recognize them and I see them; it's not all for not. I understand you witness this hopelessness all too often and the wall you may build to shut out the hurt is built with self-preservation, but that wall shuts me out, too.

When I looked to you for protection and guidance, many times I perceived a lack of empathy and disdain. I sensed you had a feeling of unworthiness toward my sister and this was a waste of your time. Assumptions and innuendos are formed without understanding and sometimes, without even the want of understanding. I'm sure this is unintentional and if you have indifference, I assume it's likely because of the trauma you constantly incur on your watch, but in my heightened state of emotional confusion where everything is amplified, it creates distance between us and that serves no purpose if we're working for the same cause.

Try to understand the girl I lost was not the same girl you came upon when you arrived on that call. She was beautiful, loving, and confident before she became sick, before she lost control of her judgment and rationality, before she felt unwanted and like a castaway, before she was undignified and shamed. I now have lost the last hope of seeing the blue in her eyes and the sound of her voice, and I've lost the opportunity to help her find peace in an unpeaceful world. If ever I seem ungrateful or thankless toward you, I'm truly sorry. Never were those my intentions. My respect for you is immeasurable and my appreciation of you is great. Nevertheless, I find myself fearing the worst in our community and having an overwhelming uneasiness about our future in this war against drugs. I sense you feel this too. Please be tolerant and understanding with me during this time, and I will be tolerant and understanding with you as well. We can work together, we can adjust, we can understand each other and we can learn from the foreboding consequences of her death.

I have faith that our future can be better and our pain can be less. I wish I may have known you in a different manner, maybe one in which there was no death and despair. And I wish you may have known me in a different manner, maybe one without trauma and pain. We're terribly alike and yet so different in this hostile world. But, regardless of each other's circumstances and ties to this particular incident, I pray I don't meet you like this again. Good luck in your endeavors and I hope you find more good than bad in your public service career. Know that you're fighting the right fight, just as I know I am as well.

Please know I really am sorry we had to meet this way.

Sincerely,

The sister of the young, blond overdose victim.

“*We are not using this initiative to pursue addicts. We are working with local and state law enforcement to go after the worst of the worst, in hopes of saving lives.*”

>> Ford remembered Harvey had emphasized the importance of obtaining an autopsy in situations when it appears investigating officers might be able to identify the dealer who provided the fatal dose. In those cases, an autopsy can rule out other causes of death, greatly enhancing the chance of a successful federal prosecution.

After talking with Bradbury, Ford contacted the local coroner, to ensure an autopsy was performed on Bowman.

The medical examiner found Bowman had ingested a lethal dose (four times the therapeutic amount) of fentanyl, a powerful opiate drug 50 times more potent than heroin. The medical examiner determined had it not been for the fentanyl, Bowman still would be alive. The autopsy also established there were no other potential causes of death, preventing a defense attorney from later speculating Bowman could have died of natural causes.

The building blocks were now in place for a successful federal prosecution of illegally distributing a Schedule I or II controlled substance that resulted in death or serious bodily injury: the seller of that lethal dose was tentatively established and the cause of death scientifically confirmed.

Garrett, who sold Bowman the fatal dose of fentanyl while on bond from state charges, now faced consequences for his criminal conduct he could not have foreseen. Under federal law, a defendant convicted of illegally distributing a Schedule I or II controlled substance that results in death or serious bodily injury is subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of 20 years, with a maximum sentence of life. If the defendant has a qualifying prior drug conviction, the sentence is mandatory life. There is no parole in the federal system.

Because the case was properly investigated, Garrett had few options. Additionally, the evidence also led to Garrett's supplier, Luis Aguirre-Jerardo, a man who,

according to some others in the county, had sold the drugs responsible for a series of recent drug overdoses in Woodford County.

Ultimately, the U.S. Attorney's Office charged both Garrett and Aguirre-Jerardo with distributing the drugs that caused Bowman's death. Garrett pleaded guilty and cannot be sentenced to anything less than 20 years. And, because of his prior drug convictions, Aguirre-Jerardo is facing mandatory life, if convicted at trial.

"If we didn't know about this initiative, we would've taken it to the commonwealth attorney and I don't know that anything would've come of it," Ford said. "It would've been uncharted waters for those guys, I'm not sure there are any laws on the books for them to work with on this. They certainly would not have had the hammer to put these guys away."

"I'm convinced that, if these dealers weren't taken off the streets, they would have continued to pedal this poison and someone else would've suffered the same tragic fate as Ms. Bowman," Harvey said. "We are not using this initiative to pursue addicts. We are working with local and state law enforcement to go after the worst of the worst, in hopes of saving lives. And we are willing to work with anyone who wants to partner with us."

Harvey's office previously has used the overdose death enhancement in a half-dozen cases, all of which resulted in the defendant receiving at least 20 years.

According to Bradbury, building a strong case starts with collecting essential evidence at the overdose scene.

"Now, anytime we have an overdose, I call Todd and he gives me a checklist of things for us (Versailles police and other first responders) to obtain as evidence at the scene," Ford said.

That checklist includes, collecting the deceased's cell phone, taking photos of the

scene and interviewing people around the scene.

"This initiative helps us show our citizens we care and show our drug dealers we aren't messing around," Ford said. "When drug dealers know it's more than probation and could be a very long sentence, these prosecutions can have a very strong deterrent effect," Harvey added.

"We would like all overdose scenes to be looked at as potential crime scenes," Bradbury said. "Not every case will end up in our court, but imagine the type of deterrent message we can send with the ones that do."

Ford has met with other first responders in Versailles and shared with them what he learned in the U.S. Attorney's Office's training session. Now, much of the county is on board.

"When I heard about this initiative," Ford explained, "I remember thinking to myself, 'Now we can do some damage with this.'"

▼ President Barack Obama listens to a question from CNN Chief Medical Correspondent Dr. Sanjay Gupta during a panel discussion held during the National Rx Drug Abuse & Heroin Summit in Atlanta.



Law Enforcement Has Critical Role in Overcoming Nation's Opioid Epidemic

DALE G. MORTON | COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR, OPERATION UNITE

Law enforcement partnerships in community-based efforts are critical when addressing this country's opioid epidemic, top federal officials — including President Barack Obama — emphasized during the fifth annual National Rx Drug Abuse and Heroin Summit held earlier this spring.

"It's costing lives and it's devastating communities," said President Obama, during a panel discussion conducted during the summit, the largest national multi-disciplinary collaboration of professionals and advocates addressing the opioid issue. "When you look at the staggering statistics in terms of lives lost, productivity impacted, costs to communities — but most importantly costs to families — from this epidemic of opioid abuse, it has to be something that is right up there at the top of our radar screen."

There were 28,647 deaths due to opioid-related overdoses in 2014, according to the most recent data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It's an alarming statistic that continues to rise, with the number of opioid-involved drug overdose deaths having more than tripled since 2000.

"More people are killed because of opioid overdoses than traffic accidents," Obama said. "We've spent a lot of time and resources to reduce traffic fatalities. It's been successful. We have to take a systematic look at the data and science, and develop strategies (using a bipartisan, all-hands-on deck approach). This is not something that is restricted to a small set of communities. It's very important to tell, in very personal terms, what this means."

The summit, hosted by the Kentucky-based nonprofit Operation UNITE — Unlawful Narcotics Investigations, Treatment and Education — drew more than 1,900 individuals representing 49 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Canada, Kenya, Lebanon and Taiwan.

"Unfortunately, this epidemic that quietly began in the hills of Appalachia now has exploded onto the national scene," said Congressman Hal Rogers, whose vision in response to the problem resulted in the creation of Operation UNITE in 2003. "It is a challenge confronting our nation's brightest minds and her most thoughtful leaders. I am deeply grateful that, despite the many challenges confronting our nation at home and abroad, the president has made this issue a priority."

"As this conference continues to grow, it becomes more important to make attendance a high priority for anyone who has a stake in the drug epidemic we all currently face," said Vic Brown, acting director of Appalachia HIDTA. "Appalachia HIDTA and the National HIDTA program, as a whole, are proud to play a small role in the summit's success."

Michael P. Botticelli, director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, outlined key elements of the administration's drug control strategy: First, leaders must become engaged at every level. Second, partnerships between public health and public safety sectors are essential to providing a comprehensive and coordinated response. And, this country must deal with the stigma associated with addiction — individuals are not their disease — and close the massive treatment gap that currently exists.

"It's still astounding to me that only 20 percent of all people with a substance-use disorder receive treatment," Botticelli said. "While our criminal justice system has a critical role to play, in 2013 only 7 percent of all treatment referrals came from a treatment provider. What I've seen is that stories (of recovery) matter. They help change people's hearts and minds. They help diminish the shame and stigma associated with this disease. These stories, and the people behind them, give me hope. They sustain me in this work. And they show all of us recovery is possible and is happening around us every single day." ■

DOCJT'S INSTRUCTORS

More than 80 instructors fill the classrooms at the Department of Criminal Justice Training, teaching fresh recruits and seasoned professionals everything from how to properly handcuff a suspect to how to handle the most frantic callers.

The professionals who share their wisdom and skills with students have wide and varied backgrounds. Their expertise and professionalism make DOCJT's instructors among the highest caliber law enforcement and telecommunications trainers in the country.

Through this series, we will introduce you to the men and women who are leading the way today for a safer and better Kentucky tomorrow.

Whether standing in front of a group of communications center directors, Kentucky law enforcement trainers or brand new dispatchers in the academy, Amanda Rogers instructs with confidence, backed by 24 years of work, teaching and life experiences that combine to make her one of the Department of Criminal Justice Training's most effective telecommunications instructors.

In 1992, shortly after graduating from Western Kentucky University with a degree in communications, Rogers answered an ad for a communications officer, a title that intrigued her, she said.

"The newspaper ad was very well written and the title caught my attention," Rogers recalled. "I didn't know what the job was, but I applied, went through the process, got the position and ended up loving it."

The young graduate went to work for her alma mater and began her law enforcement dispatch career with the Western Kentucky University Police Department, where she built relationships with students and quickly learned the unique nature of working within a university campus setting.

"A college campus is a city within the city," Rogers said. "We have every nationality, race and walk of life."

With a current population of more than 20,000 students, in addition to faculty, staff and campus visitors, WKU is a small town all to itself. And in the 11 years Rogers worked there, she experienced everything from a devastating hail storm with baseball-size hail followed by torrential flooding that paralyzed the city to the brutal murder of WKU student Katie Autry, where her burned and mutilated body was found inside her smoldering dorm room.

Rogers said when she first began teaching at DOCJT, she felt she had to overcome a stigma from her students that having worked on a college campus she had it easy. But recalling a career where she dispatched solo except on two very special occasions, her experience in a smaller communications center enables her to relate to students from smaller departments, she said.

"Did I work incidents that other instructors worked — maybe not, but maybe I worked something they didn't," Rogers said. "As a branch, it takes many different experiences and backgrounds to touch everyone and engage every student. If we all had worked for a large agency, we'd be leaving a great deal of students out."

After many years working for WKU, and attending DOCJT training classes, Rogers was approached first by a co-worker that she should take her degree and experience and use it to teach others. That sentiment >>

SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY

Amanda Rogers,
ADVANCED TELECOMMUNICATIONS INSTRUCTOR

ABBIE DARST | PROGRAM COORDINATOR

>> was echoed by then-Advanced Telecommunications Instructor Elyse Christian. Christian stopped Rogers during a training course and encouraged her to take the next step in her career.

“You should be teaching with us,” Rogers recalls Christian telling her. “At the time I was quiet and shy, not the big mouth I am now — I said, ‘I can’t do that.’ I talked to my friend and she said, ‘You can do it, and you need to.’ I applied thinking, ‘They’ll never pick me.’”

“But I wanted the opportunity to engage others and take what I had learned to not just help those in our community, but to help people engage themselves in learning and share what I know and learn on a statewide level,” Rogers continued.

Rogers had trained multiple telecommunicators in her time at WKU, and she was responsible for working with WKU officers when their field training program brought them to the dispatch center. Though Rogers was no stranger to training other individuals, when she began teaching at DOCJT in 2003, it was a big adjustment for her — going from being the faceless voice on the other end of the phone to standing in front of a classroom full of students, she said.

“I was out of my comfort zone and there was a lot of self-reflection,” Rogers said. “But that’s why now we have public speaking in our advanced classes because there are many dispatchers with something to say that would benefit agencies and communities, they just need that push to get up and say it.”

That was only one of many changes Rogers has ushered into the Telecommunications Section in her time at DOCJT, always looking at student needs and the best way to serve them. But first, Rogers said, she learned by watching. Assigned to the Advanced Telecommunications Section under then-Supervisor Betty Godsey, Rogers said she was encouraged to step outside of the box, and observing the other instructors helped her find her own niche as an instructor.

“You can’t copy others, I tried that at first because I saw how they engaged students, but it doesn’t work. But it helped me figure out who I was and how I could engage my students,” Rogers said. “I’m a big believer in more education and developing the gifts you have.”

In 2005, she was assigned the Communicator Training Officer course and jumped at the chance to have such a big

influence on how dispatchers across the state ultimately would be trained. Rogers took the existing course, which mainly focused on building a training program for agencies that didn’t have one for new dispatchers — similar to an FTO program for officers — and built on components of adult learning and emotional intelligence.

“We took it back to the (Kentucky Law Enforcement) Council and revamped it,” Rogers said. “As a CTO, if we’re asking you to be a trainer at your agency, then you need to know how to train other people in your agency.”

The new CTO course includes 40 hours of how to be a trainer and 16 hours of how to develop and build a program at your agency. The blended-learning style course offers students resources to mirror a training program from an FTO, PTO or rubric stand point, depending on what their agency currently uses for its officer training program.

“Students are welcome to use our format, but we encourage them to use their own form for their agency, to use what works for them because it’s not cookie cutter — one size does not fit all,” Rogers said.

After her success revamping the CTO course, Rogers went on to overhaul the

“*I’m a big believer in more education and developing the gifts you have.*”

Telecommunication Executive Development course. After attending a certification course in Georgia on the DiSC behavioral assessment, Rogers began incorporating the DiSC profile into the training, helping directors understand themselves, their personality and leadership styles better. TED is now an intensive three-week course, with students attending for one week each month for three months, with outside assignments and projects over the course of the three-month session.

Rogers also attended a train-the-trainers course in Canada where she spent a week observing the Royal Canadian Mounted Police training and learning new instruction methods she was able to put to use in her classroom instruction. Shortly thereafter, she was given the opportunity to teach in the instructors’ course, teaching dispatchers and police officers how to develop themselves as trainers.

By 2007, Rogers was recognized as DOCJT’s Instructor of the Year, which she says only fueled her to grow more and become more excited about instructing.

“It was a complete surprise, but it validated what I was doing,” Rogers said.

Earlier this year, Rogers, along with co-coordinator and DOCJT Evaluations Instructor Gina Smith, brought a FLETC Women in Law Enforcement training program to Kentucky. The course covered materials such as Situational Leadership II, emotional intelligence, work-life balance, belief systems and motivators and the DiSC assessment. The course ended with a panel discussion where the floor was open for course participants to ask questions regarding real-life situations, challenges and issues they have faced throughout their careers.

“This course fulfilled a need not being met in Kentucky for women,” Rogers said. “The course dealt directly with women’s issues — issues women in law enforcement,

both patrol and dispatch, deal with on a daily basis.”

Coordinators Smith and Rogers wrote curriculum and took steps to obtain KLEC-credit approval for the course, which now can be taught by certified Kentucky instructors.

“I believe in student-centered training,” Rogers said. “Part of my job is to mentor new people.”

That drive to share knowledge and mentor others in the field led her to volunteer to present at the Kentucky Emergency Service Conference every year from 2004 to 2013.

“That’s because I enjoyed it, I wasn’t paid, but it was just another way to touch others,” Rogers said.

But Rogers also wants to make sure she constantly is learning from her students and molding her teaching style to meet their needs. She asks her students to be real and honest on their course critiques, and then she pays attention to what they say. One of the newest courses Rogers is co-teaching with DOCJT Legal Instructor Tom Fitzgerald, Leadership Everyday, was developed solely from requests from supervisors across the state, Rogers said.

“All the time they are saying, ‘We need more training,’ so I asked, ‘What do you want?’” Rogers said. “Every block of instruction in this course is by request.”

This student-focused teaching method and a desire to constantly develop her own instruction methods and material earned Rogers another Instructor of the Year nomination in 2015.

“When opportunity knocks, answer the door,” Rogers said. “I wouldn’t be where I am now if I hadn’t jumped on the opportunities that came my way.”

Abbie Darst can be reached at abbie.darst@ky.gov or (859) 622-6453.

» DOCJT INSTRUCTOR «



At a Glance...
AMANDA ROGERS
Advanced Telecommunications Instructor

Years at DOCJT:
13 years

Years in telecommunications:
11 years at Western Kentucky University Police Department

Degrees earned:
Holds a bachelor’s in Communications from Western Kentucky University

Pursuing a master’s in Career and Technical Education

Favorite class taught:
Emotional Intelligence, Public Safety Dispatch Academy and all telecommunications leadership classes
“It’s all so important,” she said.



PHOTO BY JIM ROBERTSON

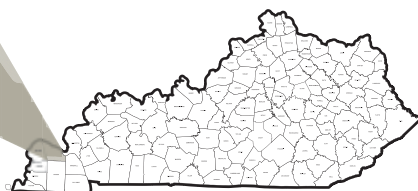


PHOTO BY JIM ROBERTSON

Paducah Police Officer Gretchen Morgan

KELLY FOREMAN | PROGRAM COORDINATOR

“You have to take a step out and refocus your attention that there is more to this police work.”

After 10 years working patrol, Paducah Police Officer Gretchen Morgan saw a developing need for greater interaction within the community than what her daily shift allowed. When the opportunity arose for her to pursue a new position as a community resource officer, she jumped at the chance to foster the relationship between Paducah’s citizens and those who police the city. A year and a half later, she is continuing to see that relationship blossom. When she’s not visiting school children or working on new programs, Morgan enjoys traveling, playing golf, reading and spending time with her husband, step-daughter and dog, J.J.

We kind of stole the idea for the “caught doing something good” program from another department we saw on social media. They were rewarding kids for doing something good rather than reprimanding them for something bad. We went to a local restaurant and got stacks of free kids’ meal rewards coupons. When it started, I saw a young man taking garbage out for his mom and carrying groceries. When people realized Officer Morgan was out looking for people doing good, then there were a lot more kids picking up trash in the apartment complexes and that kind of snowballed. The kids love it.

It’s always a nice surprise. I know a young man who was helping with an activity at Noble Park and he had taken it upon himself to pick up garbage. I caught him doing that and asked his teachers if they had told him to do it. They said he just did it. When I rewarded him, he was so surprised, but I could tell it made him feel really good.

Usually when the police show up it’s because something bad has happened. It is important to interact with officers in a positive light, and it changes people’s attitudes and perspective. It makes them think, ‘Hey, those guys are the good guys.’ A lot of times I will take a selfie with the kids and post it on our social media pages. People love a feel-good story.

I hate to say it, but you do get jaded when you deal with something bad all the time. It’s given me a new perspective to see there are good things going on here. I like to catch our officers doing good things, too.

Several years ago I started teaching DARE. I saw such a need for the positive connection between the community and the police department. Teaching DARE, I began to see those bonds develop between students, and now when I see them out, even in my plain clothes, they will say, ‘Hey Officer Morgan!’ So I started on my own, with my supervisor’s permission, developing some programs for things like distracted driving and alcohol awareness in the schools. Luckily, our chief saw the need and created the community resources officer position.

In 2012, the local high school reached out to us about having a program for them, and instead of doing a typical alcohol-awareness program at prom time, I wanted to include one of my very best friends who was injured in a distracted-driving incident in 2007. She suffered a traumatic brain injury and had shown interest in going to schools to talk about it. All the stars aligned, we did it, and from there it snowballed and we have travelled all over Kentucky and to different states to share her story.

The first year Paducah police officers had baseball cards here was 1994, then again in 1998 and 2003, then it died down for several years. It kind of lost its coolness. Our local Head Start director contacted me and said she thought the kids would love to have them again, and they wanted to teach the preschoolers that it’s OK to talk to police officers, and to teach the kids good communication skills. So we started with Head Start and basically paid to have all the officers have a card and each student have a starter pack with four cards. We talked to them about how you go and introduce yourself to a police officer and develop those skills. The older kids heard about it, so we decided, together with a local restaurant, to have a competition to see who can collect the most cards in a month. Then we had kids running crazy. We had people lined up at shift change to get the officers’ cards.

It was a big success. We will probably wait a year and do it again. The kids still

are talking about it. Next time we will do it even bigger. The cards have pictures of officers with their name, rank and a little bit about them. It lists their hobbies, departments they have worked for — basically anything they wanted to tell about themselves.

It’s been really cool to see our community programs grow. It was slow to start and took a while for people to get used to. For instance, I meet with high school students once or twice a month basically just to talk to them and ask how they think we could do better as a police department. Our high school students are our up-and-coming citizens. I always ask, ‘What do you guys see that we can improve, and what can we do to help you?’ Overwhelmingly, they say they want us to interact with them when something isn’t bad. Not when the drug dogs are there sniffing lockers. Not when somebody has gotten in a fight. They just want us to come in and visit with them, and that’s awesome. So I have started eating lunch with them.

I always had a community mentality, but I think when you work in patrol or as a detective, there’s so much negativity. You have to take a step out and refocus your attention that there is more to this police work. So it has really helped me develop my communication skills with the community. In patrol, you go in and take care of business and you’re out in maybe 20 minutes. With this position, I can stay longer just to talk to the business owners and people in the neighborhood about what else is going on.

I like to see the community build its trust with us. It makes me feel like what I’m doing is working. If we don’t have trust between the community and the police department, we can’t grow and become a better place to live. So when I see that working, it’s like all the lights and bells and whistles go off. 🗣️

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Honoring our Fallen

A Band of Brothers

KELLY FOREMAN |
PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Among more than 20,000 names etched in stone on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial are tender words from a survivor who lost her husband to a fatal gunshot wound in 1984.

“It is not how these officers died that made them heroes,” it reads. “It is how they lived.”

The sentiment could not be truer. Four Kentucky names were added in May to the rolls of those lost during 2015 in the line of duty. And while as a state we grieve their tragic loss, we choose to celebrate the lives they led, their representation of the commonwealth and the legacy they leave behind. >>



Kentucky State Police Trooper Eric Chrisman

END OF WATCH: JUNE 23, 2015



"God first, family second, everyone is family." It was the motto KSP Trooper Eric Chrisman lived by each day. His sunny outlook on life led him on many adventures and to meet many people — greeting each one with that unforgettable smile.

"Eric enjoyed everything," his mother, Dawn Chrisman, said. "He really did."

Eric grew up on the Chrisman's Lawrenceburg farm surrounded by family. He loved spending time with his Papaw learning about history and was always asking questions. He was a thinker, Dawn said. His heart was full.

"A lot of summers he worked for a dentist in town," she said. "He loved that. There were a couple of older ladies and one of them ended up with cancer. Before she passed away, she was at home and not doing well, so Eric loaded up the other ladies and drove them out to her house to see her. He was just a loving, caring person. He loved and cared for everybody."

As the middle child, Eric enjoyed healthy competition with his siblings, Evan and Emily. In school, he was determined to earn the highest ACT score among them. He may not have beat his sister, but he did graduate from Christian Academy Lawrenceburg with the highest score any graduate had earned to date, Dawn said.

It was when Eric was in high school that Dawn remembers him first telling her he was interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement. Eric's father, Randy Chrisman, retired following a career serving the Lexington Fire Department. Dawn has served as an officer with the Lawrenceburg Police Department and currently as a deputy with the Anderson County Sheriff's Office. Multiple other family members have served in various roles in public service, so the decision to pursue policing did not surprise Dawn.



PHOTO SUBMITTED



PHOTO BY JIM ROBERTSON



PHOTO BY JIM ROBERTSON

▲ Dawn Chrisman, Eric's mother, said all of her children are special, but she has been able to see just how special Eric was in the legacy he has left behind.

◀ Kentucky State Police Trooper Michael Robichaud served as Eric Chrisman's field training officer after Chrisman graduated from the academy. Robichaud fondly remembers Chrisman's smile and positive attitude.

Eric earned an academic scholarship to Western Kentucky University and chose to major in sociology and psychology, with a minor in criminology, to build a foundation for the law enforcement career he hoped to achieve. There he joined the Explorers program, where Dawn said he became the captain and spent all four years serving the Hilltoppers. It didn't hurt that part of the job meant he got to escort girls across campus, Dawn said with a laugh.

"After graduation, he started applying to different law enforcement agencies, but he hadn't really decided where he was meant to be," she said. "After he got turned down at a couple local surrounding agencies, he said he always wanted to apply for the Kentucky State Police. Especially since I have a brother in law who worked for the state police who told him, 'You have to go to the best.' So he applied and I guess they had a hiring freeze, so they put him on a list and he said it was going to be who knows how long. So he did an internship

with the Lexington Police Department and he loved that.

"When he heard from the state police that the process was back on, he was so excited," Dawn continued. "My brother in law told him, 'That's what was meant to be. God has a plan and that's where you're meant to be.' Everything just kind of fell into place, and he knew after he got there, he just loved it."

Through the academy, Dawn said she and Eric talked every day as he shared his excitement in their common understanding of law enforcement. At a KSP luncheon, Dawn said she asked the recruits from Eric's class if they were told they had to go through the academy again, if they would do it.

"They all looked at each other like, 'No way,'" Dawn said. "But Cameron [Ponder] said Eric would go through it again in a heartbeat. He loved what he was doing."

Working at the Mayfield post was a little farther from home than Eric liked, but

Dawn said he picked the western Kentucky post because he knew other troopers had families they would have to uproot to move there, and Eric was single.

"After he got there, I remember him saying, 'I really want to come home, but I don't know that I can find any nicer people than I have found in western Kentucky. They're like family'" Dawn recalled. "And my goodness, I got it after I went down there and met them. I could see how he wouldn't want to leave. And not just the people he worked with, even the community. We have a friend whose brother is down there who is an older gentleman. He kind of took Eric under his wing. They went to ball games, and I would call him and they were going out to eat. He found him a church and he just fit right in. He loved it."

'ROCK SOLID'

Eric was well loved, too. KSP Trooper Michael Robichaud said as a field training officer, he worked with Eric in his first four weeks out of the academy.

"I have never seen a guy smile as much as Eric did," Robichaud said. "When he smiled, it was a full-face smile. I remember just driving with him, eight hours a day in a car together and it didn't seem like eight hours. We laughed the entire time. We got along well and just ribbed back and forth with each other. He was just fun. He developed ties quickly in Eddyville. He was the kind of guy who everybody was his friend walking in. His mantra, 'God first, family second, everybody is family' rang true. That was exactly how he treated people."

Although Eric's badge number now reads '800,' he started out as unit 1044 — one of Robichaud's favorite memories of him.

"When he graduated, he was 1044, which is also the 10-code for a traffic stop," Robichaud said. "It created so much lunacy on the radio. It never failed that he would be on the radio and he would go to do a traffic stop and it went something like, '1044 Mayfield, 10-44 — 10-4, go ahead, 1044.' When I would call in a traffic stop, he would think I was calling him. The last day I was with him, I remember going through the computer and writing down every single available unit number. I told him if I didn't do anything else for him, I was getting his number changed. But to me, he'll always be 1044." >>

Richmond Police Officer Daniel Ellis

END OF WATCH: NOV. 6, 2015



He loved broccoli casserole, UK basketball and naps. "If I left that out, it just wouldn't be him," said Katie Ellis, wife of Richmond Police Officer Daniel Ellis.

Daniel and Katie met when they both were attending Eastern Kentucky University. During March Madness, Katie was invited to Daniel's apartment by some of his fraternity brothers to watch ECU play University of Kentucky's men's basketball team.

"I thought he was a jerk," Katie said with a laugh. "He had taken his couch and moved it within four feet of this huge TV and had everybody else sitting behind him. We were cheering for Eastern and he said, 'You all need to quit, UK is going to win. If you can't cheer for UK, you can leave.' I thought he was so uptight."

As chance would have it, the two met again and Katie learned Daniel was so much more than a UK super fan. He was kind hearted, never prone to anger and a phenomenal cook. The two had much in common. They shared the same birthday, though Daniel was three years older. Their mothers both were named Nancy and Katie shared Daniel's affinity for broccoli casserole. The first time Daniel took Katie home to meet his family, she was shocked to see that even the paintings hanging above the couches in their childhood homes were the same.

"I remember walking in and thinking, this is creepy, my mom has that same picture over her couch," Katie said. "It was so funny. When you ask someone what their favorite food was, something like broccoli casserole doesn't usually pop out. Although, we made it different ways, so we always had to decide whose way we were going to cook it. He was our cook, though. I don't know that I have made two meals since November."



Gathered on what would have been Richmond Police Officer Daniel Ellis' 34th birthday, Daniel's wife Katie, right, son Luke (in blue), and other family and friends gathered at RPD to release balloons to Heaven in his memory.

◀ After news began to spread that RPD Officer Daniel Ellis had been shot, a Lexington woman who heard he had a young son decided to purchase this 6-foot tall teddy bear at Costco to give to Luke. But when Costco employees heard what she intended to do with the bear, they gave it to her for free to honor the officer. Katie Ellis said the bear is one of her favorite gifts she received in Daniel's honor.

The two were married on July 10, 2010. Almost two and a half years later their family grew by two tiny feet with the birth of their son, Luke.

"He was the best dad ever," Katie said. "He called Luke his little buddy. He would play and wrestle with him and they would go on adventures. When he worked second shift, he would send me pictures of them at the farmer's market. Luke always wanted a watermelon. Then he would take him to the park or they would go out driving around Madison County looking at farms Daniel thought he would buy."

"Obviously I loved him or I wouldn't have married him," Katie continued. "But when Luke got here, I just saw this softer side of him. The playful, unconditional love. I think sometimes having a child can be really hard on a relationship, but it really just made ours better. He was just devoted. Even though he had to work crappy hours

sometimes, he would get home in the middle of the night and still get up with Luke. Even if he could have taken him to a babysitter, he didn't. Even if he was tired. He was definitely just a family man who would rather stay home and hang out with us on Friday nights than go out with friends."

NEVER A COMPLAINT

Daniel Ellis was chosen to serve as a Richmond Police Patrolman during a time in which former RPD Chief Larry Brock said the agency was seeing an extremely high caliber of applicants. As an officer, Daniel had a sort of bull-headed doggedness about him. Once he sank his teeth into a case, he wouldn't let go until he was satisfied with the resolution, the chief said.

"It didn't take long to figure out that Daniel was one of those guys who really got it," Brock said. "I would put him up there in the top tier of people we had hired,

at least since I was here. That's not saying anybody else was bad, that's just how good he was. For example, we never let anyone become a training officer until they had at least three years of experience. He was one of two in the almost nine years I was there that we put through the patrol training officer school before he had his three years, in anticipation that, when he got his three years, we would let him train people. That tells you a lot about what kind of police officer he was."

Katie fondly remembers her discussions with Daniel about going into law enforcement. During an 8th grade field trip to Washington D.C., Katie said Daniel's aunt bought him an FBI t-shirt because even at a young age, he was interested in pursuing the career field. He was a hard worker, and told her early in their relationship that if he didn't get hired at a police department, he was going to pursue a military career — an American tradition he admired deeply. When he interviewed with RPD, Katie said he told her, "If I'm going to ask you to marry me, I better get a better job. I've gotta tell your mom what I'm going to do."

"When he finally got hired and got a date for the academy, he went straight to Wal-Mart and bought navy blue sweats," Katie said. "I remember ironing 'Ellis' on the back of all those t-shirts."

Everything Daniel did, he did well, Chief Brock said. From the smallest case to something major, he always handled it well. He was a good man who treated people with respect, no matter who they were. He always tried to be fair in his dealings with others and leave a good impression with them of the agency when he left.

"I can't say I ever met anybody who had anything bad to say about Daniel — and that's pretty rare in my job," Brock said. "Somebody is usually complaining about somebody who works for us, and I cannot remember even one single complaint. He was proud to be a police officer, and he thought there was a certain standard you should meet in that role. And he always tried to meet it."

"I'm just glad we had Daniel for as long as we did," Brock continued. "I wish we had 30 more just like him."

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Lessons Learned from Loss

KELLY FOREMAN |
PROGRAM COORDINATOR

“Call Mike and tell him to take care of my family.”



Jim Sticklen / End of watch March 4, 2011



Jason Ellis / End of watch May 25, 2013

A student at an Alexandria day treatment center was out of control. He was a big kid, a sophomore in high school. Alexandria Police Officer Jim Sticklen, known better to those who loved him as Stumpy, served as the agency’s school resource officer and responded to the call to calm the teen.

“I remember the afternoon Jim came into my office,” said Alexandria Police Chief Mike Ward. “It was Friday and he was leaving for the weekend. He walked by my office, and I saw him limping. I hollered at him and asked, ‘Why are you limping?’”

Sticklen told Ward about the boy earlier in the afternoon.

“I didn’t want to hurt him,” Ward recalled Sticklen telling him. “I was trying to get him calmed down and he just kept repeatedly kicking my legs. They’re killing me.”

Sticklen raised his pant leg to reveal bruises Ward said were as big as his hand. Ward asked if he had seen a doctor.

“No, I’ll be OK,” Sticklen told him. “I’m just sore, I’ll be OK.”

The weekend passed and Monday morning, Sticklen drove to Corbin for Crisis Intervention Training. It was a 40-hour class and Sticklen sat in the classroom all week, legs aching, learning skills to help him work with other teens when he returned back home.

“I got a phone call from [Department of Criminal Justice Training Instructor] Cindy Hale and then a follow up call from the hospital down there in Corbin,” Ward said. “They said they were working on Jim, and he had asked me to contact his wife. In fact, when I talked to Cindy, she said Jim’s words were, ‘Call Mike and tell him to take care of my family.’”

“Initially I just took it as another injury,” Ward continued. “I sent two detectives immediately and told them to get to Corbin before his wife. I told them, ‘I don’t care how, just get there. I want her to see familiar faces when she walks in that door.’”

By the time the detectives reached Richmond, Jim had died. The damage to his legs from the week before had caused a blood clot, which developed into a pulmonary embolism that shot to his lungs and heart.

“It brings tears to my eyes right now thinking about it,” Ward said. “I can’t describe it. It’s the biggest hole in my heart I’ve ever felt, next to losing my own father.”

LOSS

Nothing can prepare you for losing one of your own. It doesn’t matter if it is a felonious death, an accident or a medical emergency caused by a teen kicking them in the shins. When a Kentucky officer dies in the line of duty, the loss is felt across the state,

deep in the seams of brotherhood. The family’s mourning extends from cruiser to community.

But in law enforcement, when you stop to grieve, the world doesn’t stop with you.

“I soon learned that, not only did I have a police department to stay in front of, we still had a job to do,” said former Bardstown Police Chief Rick McCubbin in the wake of BPD Officer Jason Ellis’ murder. “We had 911 calls to answer — wrecks, fights and domestics. We couldn’t just quit. I had to keep the motivation factor at an all-time high — allow people to grieve and cry — but recognize we are the police, and we have a job to do.”

But how? When you’re leading an agency and experience a tragedy, suddenly everyone is looking to you for answers.

Ward and McCubbin both have been there.

“I’ve been a cop a long time,” McCubbin said. “I have been through police shootings — I’ve been in them myself — and I tried to put myself in the place of officers who worked around me and remember what they told me back in the day when I was in my shooting. Because I’ll be honest, I have gone to school, I got my masters, I went to the Southern Police Institute, I can write policy, dominate a budget and make decisions, but what we lack in ... we have

absolutely no idea how to do things in, nor do we train ourselves for that moment when we lose a police officer.

“We have to develop something to cure that,” McCubbin continued. “And I don’t know how you do, because every situation is different. Everything I did that entire week after Jason was killed was just digging in my own mind and experience.”

Ellis was driving home under a moonlit sky around 2 a.m. on May 25, 2013. He had just finished his shift and was less than 10 miles from home when he stopped to clear debris from Bluegrass Parkway Exit 34. While outside his vehicle, Ellis was ambushed by a shooter who has yet to be identified.

McCubbin’s first lesson? Communication.

The small-town agency was reeling. With no suspects, a cop killer was loose. Threats were made against other Bardstown policemen. Emotions were high as investigators chased every lead. At the same time, a funeral had to be planned to lay their brother to rest.

“What I learned was every day, from the day he was murdered for the next seven or eight days, I held a department meeting every night at 6 or 7 p.m. and updated our officers on what we knew, and sadly, what we didn’t know,” McCubbin said. “After

several days, I invited their wives and husbands to come be there. We were dealing with it at work, but they had to deal with it at home. So I took a chance and included the immediate family of all of our officers to come to these meetings to let them know, ‘You’re a part of this, and we want you here.’”

Similarly in Alexandria, Ward called a departmental meeting after Sticklen’s death and ordered everyone to the office, he said. The invitation was extended to other city workers as well.

“We went upstairs into the council room and put all the chairs in a circle,” Ward said. “We had a chaplain come in, and first we went around the room and everybody shared stories about Jim. We prayed for him. And I remember praying for ourselves to give us the strength to get through this. Then we set to task.”

McCubbin remembers feeling like a basketball coach trying to remind his players that winning is possible if they stick together.

“We were starting to see our police officers, some of them, second guessing themselves and wondering, ‘Is this what I really want to do? This isn’t supposed to happen in Bardstown, Ky.,” McCubbin said. “I was constantly running in a circle, assuring the public that, all things considered, we were holding it together. And not to worry, when you call 911, we are going to be there.”

“This is in honor of Jason,” McCubbin remembered telling his officers. “Behind the tears, frustration, anger and hurt, we still are standing behind a badge that requires us to do our job. This is going to hurt. And it will probably be the worst incident you will ever face in your 25 years as a police officer. How you pull yourself up from this will dictate the rest of your career.”

LESSON TWO

Tragedy leaves emotions raw. When you’re fighting against the tears to pull yourself

◀ Alexandria Police Chief Mike Ward said losing an officer in the line of duty left “the biggest hole in [his] heart.” The outpouring of love and support from the community helped not only the police department, but also Jim Sticklen’s family get through the tragic loss.



PHOTO BY JIM ROBERTSON

» together and carry on, sometimes the resulting emotional trauma can be as painful as the loss itself. Allow yourself time to grieve, McCubbin said.

“Don’t hold it in as long as me,” McCubbin said. “I got focused on so many other things, being chief, putting my department first and not myself. Everybody grieves a little differently. Perhaps that was my way to grieve. I couldn’t sit still. I don’t think I slept more than four hours a night for two weeks. I just couldn’t. But it will get to you. I aged a little bit.”

Ward agreed. Watching his officers for signs they needed someone to talk to, and time to grieve, was imperative, he said. When he noticed someone acting out of character, he invited them to sit down in the squad room and talk, or meet somewhere on the street for a cup of coffee.

“It was more about listening than it was talking,” Ward recalled. I would just start the conversation out with, ‘How are you doing?’ Then I just shut up. I would listen to them talk. In some cases I cried with them.

“We have perfected the ability of suppressing emotion throughout our careers, and that’s why there is so much unspoken post-traumatic stress in law enforcement that doesn’t get recognized,” Ward continued. “We talk about wellness and physical fitness. We need to talk about mental health in law enforcement. We don’t recognize very well the stress and post-traumatic stress we as officers experience every single day.”

McCubbin also made a point to make himself available to talk and watch for mood swings and attitudes in his officers that weren’t normal, he said. Knowing his officers well allowed him to see changes and react quickly. He reached out to the Kentucky chapter of Concerns of Police Survivors for help with counseling and mandating that those who needed help received it.

Relying on each other and those available in support roles — like COPS and Supporting Heroes — helped Bardstown survive those first few days, McCubbin said.

“I had never seen the behind-the-scenes work they both do,” McCubbin said of COPS and Supporting Heroes. “I made one phone call and, bam, that’s all I had to do.”

COPS helped daily with details ranging from picking up Ellis’ family at the airport to counseling officers. Even as a member of Supporting Heroes, McCubbin said he had no idea what all went into the schematics of funeral planning in a line-of-duty death.

“It overwhelmed me,” McCubbin recalled. “Every time I asked [Supporting Heroes Executive Director] Eric Johnson about something, his response was always, ‘We’ve got everything covered.’ He was kind of like Radar on the old TV show, ‘M*A*S*H.’ He always had the answer before I asked the question. The details, step-by-step of planning the funeral, getting everyone to the cemetery, all those things I have sat back and looked at and thought, there is no way in hell I would have thought of bathrooms and sinks at the cemetery site.

“I learned a lot just by sitting back and looking at what COPS and Supporting Heroes did,” McCubbin continued. “Honestly, thank God for them both, they saved the day.”

Ward agreed.

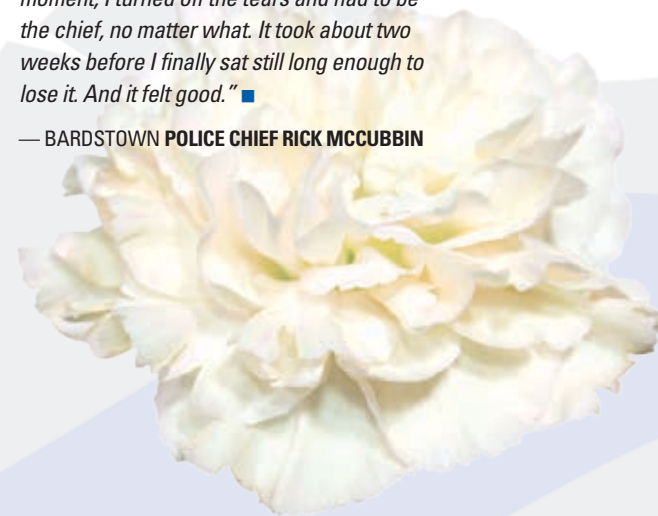
“We did a lot of the funeral planning in cooperation with Supporting Heroes in the

Allow Yourself Time to Grieve

“For other chiefs and sheriffs, I would say don’t hold it in as long as me. I forgot that I, too, had to grieve. The moment I got to the scene and knelt down beside Jason, in that quiet moment with him on the side of the road, I kept thinking, ‘How the hell am I going to do this? How am I going to do what I have to do?’”

“Then there’s that switch where you have to say, ‘Ok. Get up. You’re the chief. Be the chief and take care of business.’ And at that moment, I turned off the tears and had to be the chief, no matter what. It took about two weeks before I finally sat still long enough to lose it. And it felt good.” ■

— BARDSTOWN POLICE CHIEF RICK MCCUBBIN



► Former Bardstown Police Chief Rick McCubbin contends that good communication is the most important thing a chief executive can do for his agency in the wake of a line of duty death.

PHOTO BY PABLO ALCALA (LEXINGTON HERALD-LEADER)

dining room of Laurie [Stricklen’s] home,” Ward said. “The family was intimately involved in all the decisions. Their ability to help through that was invaluable because human emotion has a tendency to be overwhelming, and all you care about is what is right to do for his wife and his children. And they helped us with that.”

COMMUNITY

If there is any good that can come from a tragic loss, it’s that support comes from more than just law enforcement-connected organizations. The community response is something few expect. Both Ward and McCubbin learned their communities were committed to honoring their fallen heroes in greater ways than they ever imagined.

“The one thing I didn’t expect was the way this community poured out,” McCubbin said. “I have never seen anything like it in my 28 years of law enforcement. Like any other, our community knows that police officers are a necessary evil. But when something happens as tragic as losing an officer, so many people came to me and said, ‘He was *our* police officer.’ The community probably saved us in many ways, because every day, people were showing up with gifts, food, drinks; and it kept us going.”

As a school resource officer, Ward recognized what Sticklen meant to the students he served. One of the earliest phone calls Ward received after the community learned of Sticklen’s death was from the local school superintendent, who offered the auditorium of the school where Sticklen served for his visitation.

“At first, Laurie and I thought it might be overkill, but then she thought, it is the school where he worked, and the kids might want to come,” Ward said. “Thirty-eight hundred people came that evening. Not just current students, but past students, kids who had been in college.”

The outpouring did not stop there. During the funeral processional, Ward recalled 400 elementary school students standing in the rain and cold on the sidewalk with hands over their hearts or saluting their fallen hero. When they reached the middle school where Sticklen had served, 1,200 students in three grades lined the sidewalk, shoulder-to-shoulder, in tears as they drove by, Ward said. >>



Amy Ellis, second from right, lost her husband, Bardstown Police Officer Jason Ellis, on May 25, 2013 in an ambush attack on his way home from work. Ellis’ murder remains unsolved.

PHOTO BY ELIZABETH THOMAS



Laurie Sticklen, wife of Alexandria Police Officer Jim Sticklen, received a flag in her husband’s honor during the Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial Ceremony in 2012. Sticklen died as a result of a pulmonary embolism.

PHOTO BY ELIZABETH THOMAS

“McCubbin said there are many lessons he learned from losing Ellis, and the only way he knows to prepare others for such a tragedy is through sharing stories and talking to chiefs and sheriffs who have been through it.”

>> “It made it hard to drive,” Ward said. “It was just one of those days you are very proud of the profession you’re in. At the same time, you hate it.”

After the funeral, Ward said the local Fraternal Order of Police opened the lodge that night just to Alexandria police and their families.

“I remember somebody knocking on the door of the lodge and being prepared to tell them it was closed to a private party,” Ward said. “I opened the door and there was a pizza delivery kid with about a dozen huge pizzas. Somebody in the community knew we were down there and donated that kind of stuff. It was unbelievable.”

In Bardstown, Ellis’ cruiser was parked in front of the building, and McCubbin said the Crown Victoria was covered with flowers within a day.

“It was the community that wanted to have the candlelight vigil,” he recalled. “Many of whom I didn’t even know called and said, ‘We want to do this.’ And it was huge. We filled the entire courthouse parking lot.”

FINAL LESSONS

When Sticklen left Ward’s office that Friday afternoon headed home, Ward said his biggest regret is not making his officer go immediately to a doctor.

“My mistake was not ordering him to go get it looked at and not doing the initial report,” Ward said.

As a result, obtaining federal benefits for Sticklen’s family was a long process, which included a legal battle and more than four years between his death and the award of benefits from the U.S. government.

“What I did do was pull up a Word document and typed a quick memo about what I saw and put it in his medical file,” Ward said. “And I did it that day. I think that was probably the reason he won the federal benefits because of that little piece of documentation.”

“So now, if an officer gets cut on the street or gets hurt in any way, shape or form, we use the Kentucky League of Cities’ nurse line and those folks do the report for you,” Ward continued. “They are absolutely incredible. All our officers are required to keep that number in their phones, and if their supervisor says to call the company

A Lasting Impact

“Jim died on March 4, and it was Lent. Right before the funeral, I was out at the Knights of Columbus for a fish fry. I remember going to the restroom and this kind of strange young boy comes in with a goofy haircut, earrings and tattoos. He looked over at me and, I didn’t know who he was, I’m in blue jeans, and he said, ‘Chief?’ and just starts crying.

“He said, ‘I would not be who I am today if it wasn’t for Stumpy. At that time of my life, all I kept thinking about was killing myself.’ And he just bawled and was making me want to cry standing there in the bathroom. Because Jim affected his life in a manner and he did it so subtly. We don’t realize how we affect the lives of other people. It may not have been something Jim did every day. It may have been something he did for that boy once and that’s all it took. So when we say officers in a community-policing setting have the ability to change people’s lives, that’s an understatement.” ■

— ALEXANDRIA POLICE CHIEF MIKE WARD

▼ A memorial plaque hangs in the hall of the Alexandria Police Department honoring the memory of Alexandria Police Officer Jim Sticklen, who died in the line of duty on March 4, 2011.

PHOTO BY JIM ROBERTSON



nurse and make a report, they do. It’s one less report a cop has to type out. They don’t mind making a phone call and answering questions.”

McCubbin said there are many lessons he learned from losing Ellis, and the only way he knows to prepare others for such a tragedy is through sharing stories and talking to chiefs and sheriffs who have been through it. It’s hard to know in the moment if you’re making the right decisions, he said. Understanding that you will get through it and find your new normal, eventually, is part of the process.

“We realized soon after Jason’s murder we would never be back to normal,” he said. “We had to adapt to our new normal. Thankfully, we are OK. Everyone is still devastated and now pretty much in the anger stage. It’s been three years, and we are no closer to solving his murder than we were three years ago. When I hear of a police officer being killed, of course my heart just skips. But the only thing I can find comfort in for the family and fellow officers is that the suspect is in custody or dead. That brings a little bit of happiness, shall I say, because I know at least that the family and police family have closure, where we have yet to experience that.”

The emotional damage caused by the loss of a fellow officer is staggering. Ward said it’s common to think you have to swallow your emotions.

“You have to be able to say, ‘OK, this is not your time,’” Ward said. “You are not allowed to grieve, you have to show strength. But I remember one night, I had gone upstairs to the bedroom to change, and my wife, Carol, looked at me and I just fell onto my knees. I just buckled. She said, ‘Are you OK?’ And I said, ‘I just feel so overwhelmed. I don’t know if what I am doing is correct.’ The human emotion overwhelms you, and it’s indescribable.

“It was those folks from Supporting Heroes who were invaluable, because when we had questions, they kept us logically on task,” Ward continued. “They made sure we didn’t miss a beat. Because I don’t give a damn how strong you think you are; you’re not. And this? You can prepare all you want. But you won’t be prepared when it happens to you.”

Kelly Foreman can be reached at kelly.foreman@ky.gov or (859) 622-8552.

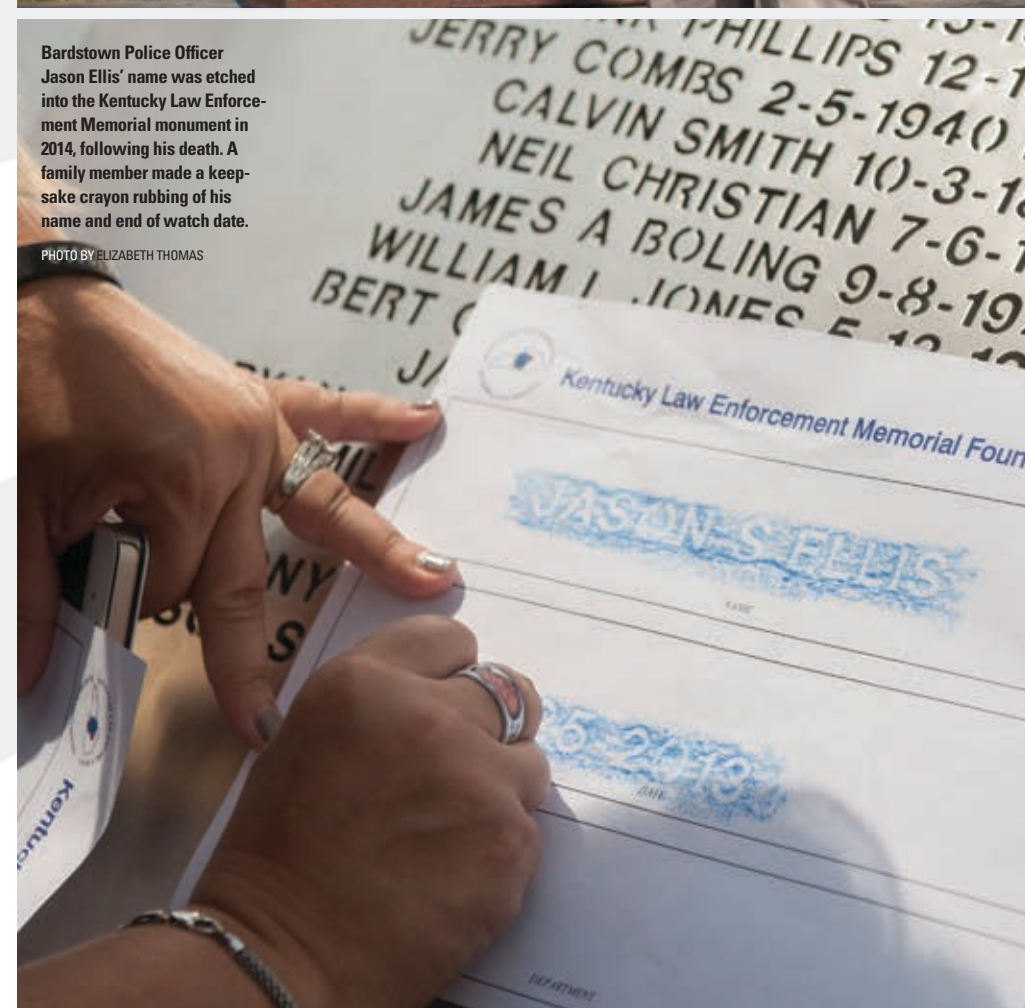
A monument stands near the police department to honor those in the community who have sacrificed their lives. Alexandria Police Chief Mike Ward said his officer, Jim Sticklen, was well loved by the community.

PHOTO BY JIM ROBERTSON



Bardstown Police Officer Jason Ellis’ name was etched into the Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial monument in 2014, following his death. A family member made a keepsake crayon rubbing of his name and end of watch date.

PHOTO BY ELIZABETH THOMAS



Down Payment on a Promise

KELLY FOREMAN |
PROGRAM COORDINATOR



In the immediate aftermath of a line-of-duty loss, Eric Johnson, executive director of Supporting Heroes, has seen pain and grief transition quickly to panic and fear.

"Immediately, in most cases, they start thinking about financial concerns," Johnson said of survivors. "They start wondering, 'How am I going to feed my children? Keep my home?' Public safety families struggle on two incomes most of the time. When suddenly the breadwinner

falls, there is an immediate reality of survival."

Johnson established Supporting Heroes in 2004 when he was working together with the Kentucky Chapter of Concerns of Police Survivors. A retired officer himself, Johnson said he learned that many in public safety assume things were being done for surviving families that were not.

"You assume the government steps in and takes care of families, so other than the grief, they don't have to worry about

anything else," Johnson said. "But that's not the case."

For years, Johnson said the federal government has promised to improve the speed with which it gets benefits to surviving families. But, he estimates, even when it does get better, a year could pass before families see the benefits earned by their hero.

"When I first started witnessing that, I thought, we can do better," he said. "We need to take better care of our survivors."

Since 1959, a group in St. Louis, Mo., has done that, Johnson said. He began researching The Backstoppers, a group that serves area police, fire and emergency services personnel after a loss.

"They make families debt free," Johnson said. "They say, 'Show us your bills, we're paying everything off.' I was inspired by that and kept talking to people, telling them we needed something like that here. We think families should be taken care of ... their food covered ... at the very least getting a funeral paid for. So that was the catalyst."

In bigger cities, especially in the case of a felonious death, communities often pour donations and assistance to families, Johnson said. In the smaller communities, though, the support sometimes doesn't reach as far. With that in mind, Johnson said he and the group of friends who began Supporting Heroes decided they would work to raise enough funding to serve the entire state of Kentucky — and part of Indiana.

"We went to St. Louis to study what that group did, and I remember sitting at lunch with them and one of the guys said, 'I've just got to tell you, we have concerns about you covering the whole state of Kentucky. We really think you should just start with one county and expand from there.' I thought, 'I'm not telling them we're doing two states!' This is insanity, I know, we haven't raised a dime, and we're saying we're going to help in two states. But we

kicked it off, started raising money, and we have come a long way since then."

COMMITMENT

A live person answers the Supporting Heroes' death notification line 24 hours a day, seven days a week, Johnson said. When someone calls that number, the team member answering the line can give the family or agency immediate advice. Once that call is received, Johnson said the team is prepared to respond.

"Our commitment is that we will be rolling on our way within an hour and be prepared to be there for a week," Johnson said. "Once we get there, we will assess the situation, meet with the head of the agency as quickly as we can and, following his lead and recommendation, we will meet with the family.

"We give the family \$5,000, and we call that emergency funds," he continued. "Up until a few weeks ago it was \$3,000; we just raised it. We call that a down payment on a promise. The purpose of giving that to the family is that we want to make a strong statement, in no uncertain terms, that you are not alone. People say they are going to do things for you, and we want to prove it. It is designed to take away some of the financial stress. It's not a hollow promise."

A few days following the funeral, Johnson said a team member will sit down with the surviving family and talk with them about the state and federal benefits that will come. But until then, the group will work together with the family to go over their monthly bills and commit to covering them.

"We make it possible for a now single parent to be a stay-at-home parent as long as they need to," Johnson said. "We will give them whatever it takes. The most we have ever given anybody on a monthly basis was \$4,400, but it's usually around \$3,000. It's all based on need."

MEMORIAL

Aside from their financial assistance, Supporting Heroes has become known for their memorial teams, which have trained to assist in any way needed with first responder funerals. How each agency and family chooses to utilize the organization's services is entirely up to them, but Johnson



▲ Supporting Heroes Executive Director Eric Johnson established the group in 2004 to take care of families left behind after a line-of-duty death.

said the group can do everything from simply working traffic to organizing the ceremony from beginning to end.

"We hate to come to a line-of-duty funeral and see members of the grieving department doing traffic control," Johnson said. "That's a grieving family, too. Some people want to do that — it's cathartic for them — and they shouldn't be deprived of that opportunity. But they should not have the burden of the details. We have plenty volunteers."

Johnson takes pride in seeing all the details run smoothly. For example, despite the magnitude of vehicles and attendees trying to get into the Eastern Kentucky University Alumni Coliseum for Richmond Police Officer Daniel Ellis' funeral in November, the service started on time, down to the minute.

"That is a show of respect," Johnson said. "That is how a person is honored. No one is supposed to know about the people who haven't slept in days, who are stressing about the details in the back hallways, yelling on radios and on the phone trying to get everything done. We don't want them to see that. We just want them to >>



PHOTO BY JIM ROBERTSON

◀ Hundreds of officers from across the country attended Richmond Police Officer Daniel Ellis' funeral at Eastern Kentucky University.

>> see things happen and happen smoothly. That's what we train for. I think there are so many details that people just don't really think about."

To Johnson, those details are more than just items on a checklist. Over the past 12 years, the organization has established special ways to honor the first responder, family and fellow co-workers. Some of those details may be simple, but they are by design, he said.

"The changing of the guard at the casket at Daniel Ellis' funeral," Johnson said. "You never saw two of the same uniforms at the same time. The symbolism of that shows that what happened here didn't just affect this community. It affects the law enforcement community far and wide. Having that mixture, that show of solidarity symbolically, I think that's a powerful statement."

ADVICE

Supporting Heroes team members also are available to offer advice to grieving agencies and families beyond the funeral and finances. For example, Johnson said one of the first pieces of information he offers relates to the media. In a line-of-duty death, it is inevitable that the phones will ring constantly and TV cameras will be abundant.

"If they haven't dealt with a line-of-duty death before, the public information officer often will try to handle the media the way they would any other major event," Johnson said. "They don't realize, a lot of times, the impact what they do has on the

family. So we caution them about some of those things."

In a similar vein, Johnson said when the time is appropriate, he discusses the media with the grieving family.

"I let families know from the beginning that, right now, the story is how he died," Johnson said. "I encourage the family to have a conversation and decide, 'What do you want the story to be?' I believe the story should be how he lived. Who was he as a dad? A spouse? A son or sibling? Was he a boy scout leader or a coach? Why did he want to be a cop? You want that story to be told, and I encourage people to tell it. It empowers them. And if the family encourages it, that's when you start to see a much different story. That's when you begin to see stories come out and we learn who Jason Ellis and Daniel Ellis were, because those families wanted those stories told."

Johnson said he encourages departments to bring everyone together as soon as possible after a loss. Gathering together not only officers, but also their spouses and other involved community members can be very positive, and often leads to the beginning of acceptance and healing.

The Supporting Heroes team also encourages connecting with the community early on.

"The community is grieving as well," he said. "One of our goals is to connect with the community and let them know ways they can show respect and honor. We encourage setting up tribute cars at the police station, candlelight vigils and things like that."

The main piece of advice Johnson always hopes to get across to agency leadership is first and foremost, a line-of-duty death is a personal, family tragedy, not just a police death.

"It's a death of a human, who has a family, and the wishes of the family need to come first," he said. "So often well-meaning people who haven't thought things through will put the needs of the agency in front of the needs of the family, and that's just wrong. We can't do that. Other people will go to the other extreme where the family gets whatever they want. Well, yes they do, but it's up to the leaders to help them make informed decisions. They have an obligation to give them the information they need to make those decisions."

RECOVERY

In the following days, when the news stream and activities begins to quieten down, another organization steps in to provide after care, Kentucky Concerns of Police Survivors Immediate Past President Julie Schmidt said. While many may consider COPS an organization for surviving families, they also serve surviving co-workers as well, she said.

COPS members attend visitation and funeral services of those lost in the line of duty and respectfully offer a business card to family members and fellow officers to give them the resources to contact them when they are ready.

"We know they might not remember us, but hopefully they will hold on to that card," Schmidt said. "Sometimes we take them wristbands that say 'COPS — Healing. Loving. Life renewed.' A few weeks later we try to talk to them and offer our services. Sometimes it takes years for a family member to want to have anything to do with us. And that's OK. We just want to make contact and invite them to come to our picnics, Christmas parties and race days together at Keeneland."



▲ Kentucky Concerns of Police Survivors Immediate Past President Julie Schmidt became involved with the COPS organization after seeing firsthand how they support families.

Because the Kentucky chapter is part of the larger, national COPS organization, there are several programs available to Kentucky officers and their families. Schmidt said the local chapter offers to reimburse travel to national COPS retreats, for example.

"There is a co-workers retreat through national COPS," she said. "Sometimes it is difficult for an officer to admit they are having issues or problems when a co-worker has been lost in the line of duty. But the national retreat for co-workers is a great place to receive support."

The retreats offer opportunities for counseling sessions, group activities and fun, Schmidt said. But whether through a retreat, picnic or get together, the important thing to remember is that service from the organization, and its' members is ongoing and always available.

"We want people to know that once the pomp and circumstance is over, we will be there for you," Schmidt continued. "And we will be there for you for a lifetime."

For more on COPS, see p. 64.

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Meeting the needs

"Our mission is to do everything we can to support families. One example of this that doesn't happen often is in [Bardstown Police Officer] Jason Ellis' case. His mom was in North Dakota. I had just gotten to the police department after his death. I had been there about 20 minutes when a chaplain took a phone call from Ellis' mom. A local sheriff had located her at a campground and notified her about Jason. The chaplain was on the phone talking to her and I heard him say, 'Well, I don't know, I hadn't thought of that, let me ask.'"

"He turned to me and said, 'She wants to know how she can get here.' I said, 'Well, find out the closest airport and write down her information for her and her husbands' licenses and I will get to work on it.' As you know, flying at the last minute, you pay big bucks for tickets. I booked flights and bought tickets. Unfortunately, they had to change planes twice, but we had honor guards waiting at each location and escorted them to the gate when they boarded the plane. When they got off the plane in Indianapolis, an honor guard escorted them to the Delta World Club area and set up an area for them for privacy so they would be comfortable. When it was time for their next flight, the honor guard walked them to the gate and put them on the plane. The same thing happened in Atlanta. When they arrived in Louisville, a police car pulled up under the belly of the plane and they were the first ones off the plane, down the stairs to the tarmac. They got in the police car and a special baggage handler was there to pull their bags out and they were on their way to Bardstown as quickly as possible. When they got there, we had a rental car ready and waiting for them to use and hotel rooms provided for them and their daughters who came from Ohio.

"That's the extent of the kind of things we do. We want every detail attended. We raise money in advance. When tragedy strikes, the first thing people think of is raising money. We've already done that. That's why we give the family the \$5,000. We can pay for airline tickets and whatever else needs to be done. That's why we were created. Early on we had this big vision of financial support and funeral planning. But we have grown and adapted to address the needs as we see them. We want to do what we can and when we see those needs, try to find a way to meet them."

— ERIC JOHNSON, SUPPORTING HEROES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



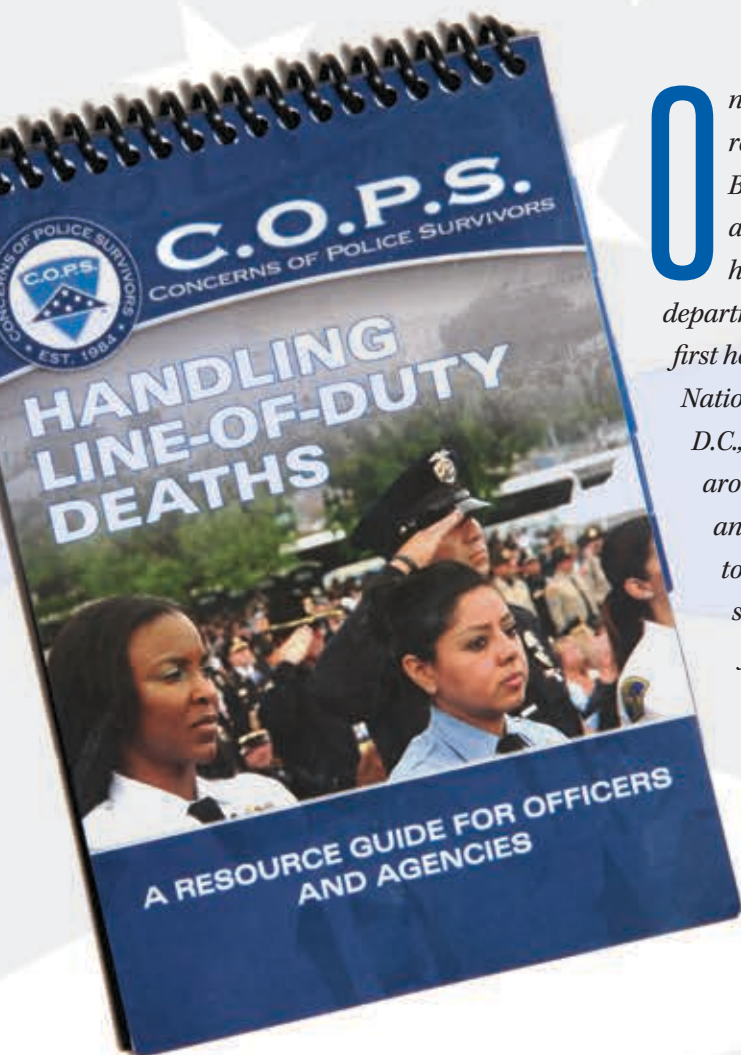
Gathering together not only officers, but also their spouses and other involved community members can be very positive, and often leads to the beginning of acceptance and healing.



Rebuilding Shattered Lives

ABBIE DARST |
PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Profiling Kentucky's Concerns of Police Survivors Chapter Founder Jennifer Thacker



On April 16, 1998, Jennifer Thacker's life changed forever when she received the earth-shattering news that her husband, Alcoholic Beverage Control Investigator Brandon Thacker, had been shot and killed during a pursuit. Jennifer found herself left alone with her 18-month-old daughter Katherine, unshakeable grief and a department of stricken officers, trying hard to be what she needed in those first hours, days and weeks. Nearly a year later, when she attended the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial ceremony in Washington, D.C., she discovered a group of other surviving spouses who gathered around her and Katherine, offering understanding hearts, open arms and shoulders on which to cry. That experience led her on a journey to create a solid network of law enforcement line-of-duty death survivors in Kentucky to ensure there was a supportive network for the family and co-workers of Kentucky's law enforcement community during the worst moments of their lives. Kentucky's Concerns of Police Survivors chapter was created in 2001 and has helped numerous survivors rebuild their shattered lives, helped agencies prepare for tragedy and trained countless officers how to handle the inevitable traumas of a law enforcement career.

What is COPS and how was its mission established?

COPS was organized in 1994 when a group of 10 widows got together for the national service in Washington, D.C. The service wasn't large, there was no memorial yet, and it didn't have the services, support and response we see today. When these women shared their stories, they realized the need for a support organization. Law enforcement death is traumatic and has unique aspects. That was the precipice that got COPS going. COPS' mission is to help rebuild shattered lives of families and co-workers of an officer killed in the line of duty.

One thing that is unique about COPS is we conduct weekend retreats for different types of survivors — children, wives, parents. After a law enforcement death, the grief process is very public, so to have a safe place to openly grieve, mourn and share struggles and trials is an important part of grieving and rebuilding.

Some survivors go to the COPS retreats once and that's all they need. But some come back year after year. Everyone's needs are different, but to have options is great. >>



PHOTO BY JIM ROBERTSON

▲ Kentucky COPS Chapter Founder Jennifer Thacker became involved in the organization after her husband, Alcoholic Beverage Control Investigator Brandon Thacker, was killed in 1998 in the line of duty. Thacker saw a need for a Kentucky chapter, which officially began in 2001.

>> Does COPS focus primarily on family survivors or agency survivors, such as co-workers?

I think it has evolved and in the past decade or so. There has been a better understanding of the effects of line-of-duty deaths on fellow officers. Because of that, COPS started including those individuals because there are officers who went through training together, and even if they were not directly involved in the incident when their fellow officer was killed, they still can be very deeply affected. I think those officers, because the nature of officers is to be caretakers, they want to fix things, to protect and care for both the family or other co-workers, and don't take care of themselves and recognize how deeply it has affected them.

In 1994 COPS began as a meeting of 10 widows, but since then, it's been adding parents and developing programs for different family members, even in-laws. My mother was a part of initiating a retreat for in-laws. My mom and dad had to deal with the loss of their son-in-law and their daughter's grief. My parents had a lot of issues, and they needed a safe place as well.

The retreats are hands-on programs. For spouses and everyone except children,

the retreat is a four-day weekend. They fly into a location, go to the retreat center and there are options to gather in groups, like a debriefing group. They are separated by the nature of their loved one's death, whether it was felonious or an accident. There are different dynamics and issues you deal with in different scenarios. There may be issues with raising a child alone. Some may

deal with feelings like: It's been five years, why do I still feel awful?

Trained psychologist and counselors who deal with grief and especially law enforcement grief are available. In addition to that, there are fun activities and challenges. There are some easy activities like fishing or canoeing, or challenges like zip lines. Overcoming fear is a big thing. Activities and challenges are developed to empower you. When you have someone die suddenly you feel a loss of control over your life. When you do activities that make you feel like you can do something and control something, it's an awesome feeling.

At kids' camp, they go with their parent or guardian. It is like a basic kids' outdoor camp and they have the opportunity to get with their parent/guardian and a counselor, as well as without their parent. Children aren't open with grief because often they don't want mom to cry. If there are family issues that arise, there are people there to bring the family together and teach them to grieve together.

The teen camp is like an Outward Bound experience. They have to be 15 years old to go. They've gone white-water rafting



◀ Scan this QR code with your smart phone or visit this link (<http://www.nationalcops.org/coworkers.html>) for details about this fall's national Concerns of Police Survivors co-worker retreat.

The retreats are hands-on programs ... Trained psychologist and counselors who deal with grief and especially law enforcement grief are available. In addition to that, there are fun activities and challenges.

in Utah and mountain climbing. My daughter went three years in a row and lived in the wild for a week. That's an experience when overcoming challenges and learning to have confidence in oneself.

How did you become involved with COPS?

Obviously with the death of my husband, Brandon, in 1998. When he was killed there wasn't a local COPS organization in Kentucky. The first year I went to national police week and met other people from states with a COPS chapter who had immediate support after their loss, not necessarily within a day or a week, but within the first few weeks or months, having the opportunity to meet other law enforcement survivors — having people reaching out to them — I could tell a difference in how their grief walk advanced. That's when I realized the value of peer support and how much I craved and needed that. I worked to bring a COPS chapter to Kentucky.

I started reaching out to other survivors, and was blessed to get in contact with (former First Lady) Judi Patton, whose father was killed in the line of duty in 1950. She was very willing and helpful to organize a Kentucky COPS chapter. She had a lot of experience. So that was it. It's all volunteer, so it's slow at times because it's hard when dealing with grief, you don't want to ask people to take on additional responsibility. But we are a chapter of law enforcement survivors, and it is awesome to have the ability to talk to someone about overcoming traumatic grief and to have someone who's been there. Our chapter is doing really well right now. The chapter's success has allowed me to step back a little as my daughter got into her senior year in high school. It's good to have others move the charge along.

You served as the national COPS director several years ago. How did your national-level involvement affect the Kentucky COPS chapter?

I was on the national board from 2004 to 2008 and was elected national president in 2008. I served a two-year term. Because I was a Traumas of Law Enforcement conference trainer for nine or 10 years, I was able to bring that training to Kentucky. I hoped that it would open people's eyes, or that it would benefit people and educate them that they don't have to do this alone. When an officer is killed and an agency takes on so >>

Alternative College Funding Sources

ABBIE DARST | PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Kentucky's educational benefit to the spouse and children of an officer killed in the line of duty are phenomenal, enabling students to earn a college degree completely tuition free. But that benefit only applies to state-supported schools in Kentucky. What happens if the degree program a survivor feels passionate about pursuing isn't offered at any of Kentucky's state-supported schools?

That is exactly the boat in which Katherine Thacker found herself when she prepared to start college last fall. Katherine, daughter of fallen Alcoholic Beverage Control Investigator Brandon Thacker, wanted to pursue a degree in ministry and ultimately decided Liberty University was the best place to go — unfortunately it is in Virginia. Meaning the full-tuition benefit she was eligible for and her mother had planned for could not be used. Katherine's mother, Jennifer Thacker, began researching and discovered numerous ways to help fund the pursuit of her daughter's dreams. Below are some options she shared.

- **Public Safety Officers Education Assistance Program (see more about PSOE on p. 70)**
 - Federal scholarship available to all public safety line-of-duty death survivors
 - Recipients receive \$1,021 per full-time month of attendance
- **Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation**
 - \$2,000 awarded to surviving dependents annually; must reapply each year
- **Concerns of Police Survivors**
 - Awarded in special circumstances where state tuition-free benefits cannot be used because state-supported schools do not have desired degree program
- **American Police Hall of Fame**
 - \$1,000 annual scholarship
- **National Law Enforcement and Firefighter Children's Foundation**
 - Offers scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$5,000 to children of law enforcement officers and firefighters permanently disabled or killed in the line of duty.
- **Kids Chance of Kentucky**
 - Based through Workman's Compensation field for children of parents killed on the job
 - For 2016 the scholarship was \$1,250 per semester
- **LifeHappens.org**
 - Essay-based scholarship based on impact of parent's death and how it has inspired the student to go to school
 - \$15,000 scholarship, to be paid directly to winners' college, university or trade school; \$8,000 for first runner up; \$5,000 for second runner up
- **AAA**
 - Essay scholarship on the importance of wearing your seatbelt
- **Scholarship.org**
 - Web-based search program allows students to put in their information and it finds scholarships that meet their life situation
- **Major businesses and corporations**
 - Almost every major business has a foundation that has scholarships available, from Burger King to Target ■



PHOTO BY JIM ROBERTSON

» much responsibility to care for the family — there are organizations that can help and have experience that can provide support emotionally, not just short term but long term. I hope that it opened their eyes. Our chapter representatives are getting consulted more. We are hearing sooner about how to get in touch with families and getting contacted with help for survivor benefits.

Now that I've gone through the college process with my daughter — me and the Sticklens in Alexandria are the first families that had college-aged students in a long time — I hope our experiences will help others down the road as their children grow up.

Kentucky COPS isn't just there when an officer dies, or that year, but they are there 18 years later when the kids are in college. Katherine was only 18 months old when Brandon died and part of her struggle is not having memories of her father.

Everyone grieves differently and the way an individual handles stress and trauma is based on the life he or she lived up to that point. Some people don't get involved with COPS, not everyone wants to sit in groups and talk, maybe because of the way they have previously dealt with stress in their lives.

What are some things COPS does or programs they provide that law enforcement agencies might not know about?

I think the trainings such as the Traumas in Law Enforcement conference and the opportunity to bring training to their

agency or group. There would be some expense, but that is an option.

COPS also offers a scholarship for students who don't take advantage of the state college tuition benefits as law enforcement line-of-duty death survivors. Like my daughter, Katherine, if students choose to go out of state because the study program they want to pursue isn't offered at an in-state institution, they can apply for a scholarship from COPS to offset the cost.

COPS also has sample policies on line-of-duty death. It makes it easy for an agency to take that first step toward having a distinct policy. They can use it just like it is, take off the fake agency name and enter their agency name, or use it as a jumping off point for crafting their own policy.

Then the network of working with other COPS chapters and our networks with other organizations. National COPS is one of three organizations that plan the national law enforcement memorial ceremony.

What is the most valuable contribution COPS makes to Kentucky's law enforcement community?

I would say just the assurance that there is a group of people available to provide support to family and co-worker survivors. We have several co-workers who serve on our board. One of them is Chet Gentry who was the officer there with my husband when he was shot — he was obviously extremely affected. I never realized how affected Chet was. I had done a lot of good grief work personally, but when we went to the parole hearing 10 years later, Chet was by far the



▲ COPS is about building relationships with other law enforcement survivors. Jennifer Thacker (right) and Julie Schmidt have become lifelong friends though years of their involvement with the Kentucky COPS Chapter.

most distraught in the room. It hit me then how little grief work he'd done. He was first on the scene, and he felt responsible to take care of me and Katherine, not himself. He had a lot of guilt that, even though he had family too, he was alive and Brandon wasn't. He wondered, 'Why not me?' I think for officers who are impacted, there are people who have similar experiences and can relate to the challenges of coping with something like this. We're all human, and it helps just to know that we're here.

Everyone expects the spouse to be a puddle, but for the co-workers they expect them to be stoic and move on and get back to work.

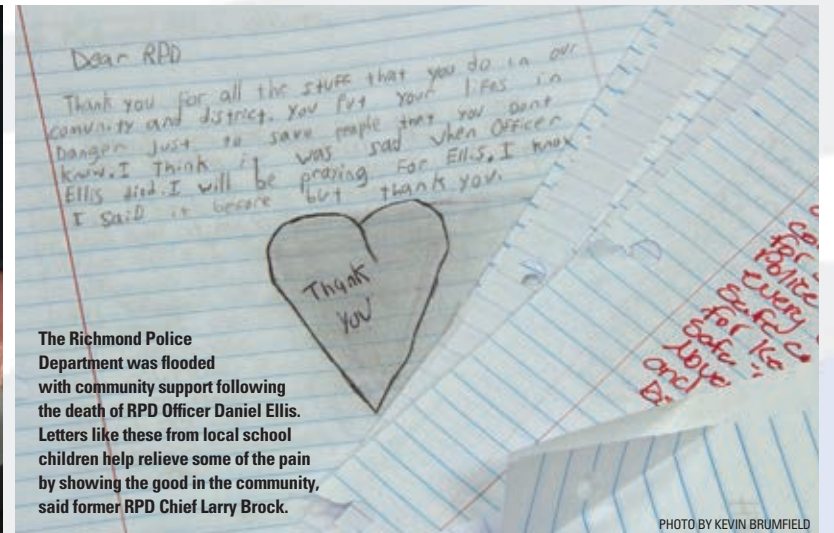
I talked to an officer several years ago who, in the late 1970s or 80s, was right there when an officer was killed, and he was sent right back onto the street. He got a call for a minor incident, but he didn't go right away. When he finally showed up, the woman was furious and screaming at him and he was like, 'I can't deal with you — I just watched my co-worker get killed.'

It is good to know that there is more information on mental health and wellness and situations like that wouldn't happen today, but in some small communities they may not have a choice. They need to know there are other agencies that can step in and take over for them, like KSP or neighboring communities, so their officers can deal with their immediate emotional aftermath.

Abbie Darst can be reached at abbie.darst@ky.gov or (859) 622-6453.



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH THOMAS



The Richmond Police Department was flooded with community support following the death of RPD Officer Daniel Ellis. Letters like these from local school children help relieve some of the pain by showing the good in the community, said former RPD Chief Larry Brock.

PHOTO BY KEVIN BRUMFIELD



PHOTO BY TRANG BASEHEART

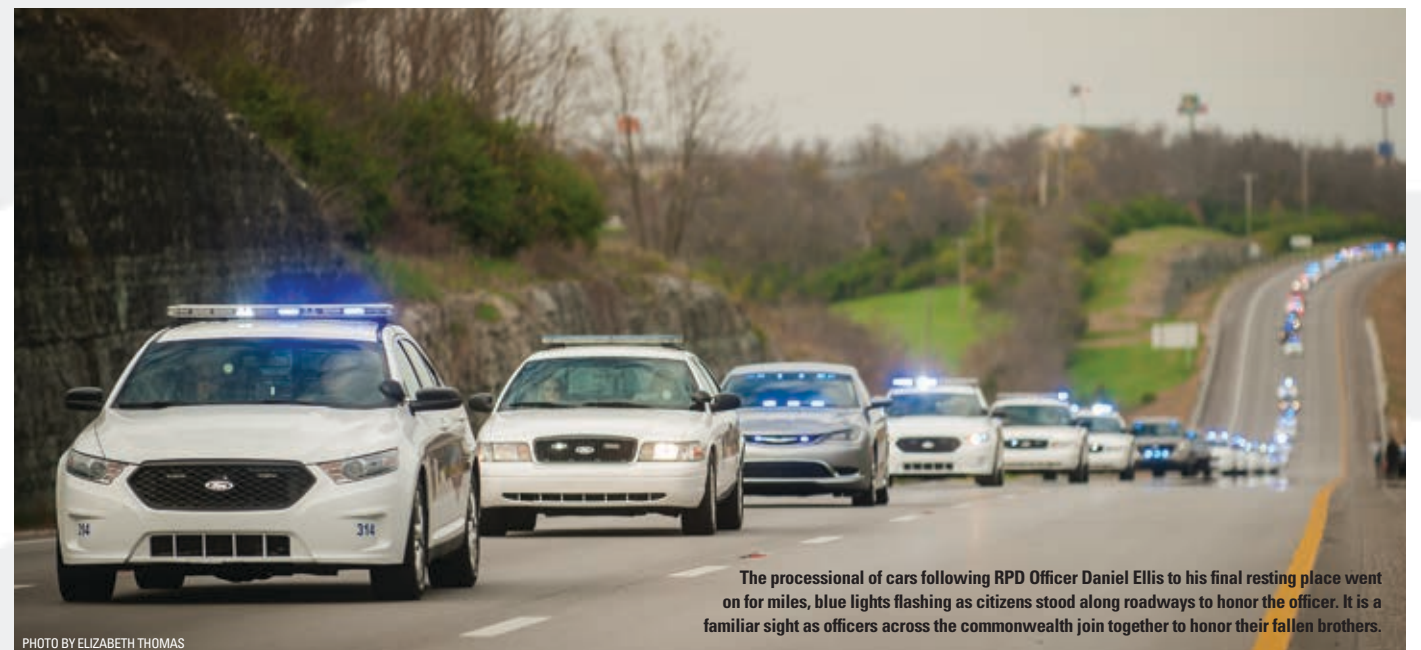


PHOTO BY ELIZABETH THOMAS

The procession of cars following RPD Officer Daniel Ellis to his final resting place went on for miles, blue lights flashing as citizens stood along roadways to honor the officer. It is a familiar sight as officers across the commonwealth join together to honor their fallen brothers.

I think for officers who are impacted, there are people who have similar experiences and can relate to the challenges of coping with something like this. We're all human, and it helps just to know that we're here.

Easing the Burden

ABBIE DARST |
PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Understanding line-of-duty death benefits at a state and federal level

Conceivably, the worst moment in the life of a law enforcement agency is losing one of their own in the line of duty. No matter the circumstance or details, the loss is shocking and surreal for every officer, every administrator and every staff member. In the midst of swirling emotions, an overload of decisions to be made and an overwhelming need to be there for the family, often it seems impossible to fit even one more detail into an already overburdened mind and heart.

But when the funeral is over, the flags return to full staff and calls for service force officers to return to normal duty, it's important that every law enforcement agency know there still are tremendous benefits available to the family of a fallen officer. Though they will never lessen the pain, these benefits can lessen the burden, both immediately and well into the future.

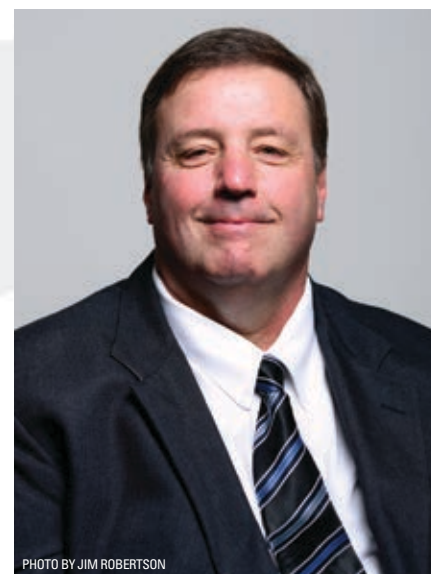
STATE-LEVEL BENEFITS

Peace officers who put on a uniform and

place their safety and life on the line to keep citizens of their community safe, day after day, earn financial and educational benefits. If an officer sacrifices his or her life in the line of duty, those earned benefits provide for the needs of the family left behind.

— Financial benefit

In Kentucky, the spouse of any officer who dies in the line of duty as a result of an act in the line of duty receives a lump



▲ Tom Szurlinski, DOCJT Legal instructor

sum of \$80,000. If the officer has children, that benefit is split evenly between the spouse and children. If there is no surviving spouse, the children receive the lump sum. In the case that the surviving children are younger than 18, then they will receive \$35,000 immediately, and the remaining \$45,000 will be placed in a trust, divided into equal accounts for each child until they reach the age of 18. If an officer has neither a surviving spouse nor children, the benefit goes to the officer's parents.

KRS 61.315 specifically addresses benefits afforded to survivors of fallen peace

officers. The statute lines out exactly what entities qualify as peace officers and the particulars of what "an act in the line of duty" means to apply for these benefits.

"The criteria for receiving this financial benefit is completely separate from honoring someone whose name goes on the national or Kentucky law enforcement memorial," said DOCJT Legal Instructor Tom Szurlinski, who also serves on the Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation Board of Directors. "Requirements for these benefits are different than what they look at for memorial inclusion."

The application for death benefits is processed through the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet and ultimately is accepted or denied by the cabinet's general counsel.

In the midst of the trauma involved with the death of an officer, it may be confusing for families who don't understand why their officers' names are added to a national or state monument, but do not qualify for the financial death benefit, Szurlinski said. And though those situations do not happen frequently, they are a possibility, and agencies need to be knowledgeable about the statute and guidelines so they can honestly and effectively communicate with the family in those situations.

But even more importantly, agencies need to be aware that there are deadlines associated with this financial benefit. In Kentucky, the claim for death benefits must be filed within six months from the date



of death. In some instances, this can be extended by the Justice Cabinet secretary.

Apart from any line-of-duty death experience, six months seems like a long time, certainly a reasonable amount of time in which to file for benefits. However, in many situations, dealing with the stress, funeral, emotions and picking up pieces of everyday life, time can get away from families and department heads quickly.

"When these things happen, they are so traumatic," Szurlinski said. "It's hard to work on paperwork too. There's never a good time, but when it happens, there are time limits so we need to make sure we're aware before it happens, so we're not scrambling if that time ever comes."

— Educational benefit

In addition to the \$80,000 lump-sum benefit, KRS 164.2841 makes surviving spouses and children of fallen officers eligible to receive free tuition at state-supported schools. For families with children who lose an officer — and often a main source of income — this benefit is monumental as well. For some Kentucky families, like that of Alexandria Police Officer James Sticklen who had one child in college, one in high school and one in middle school when he died in 2011, this benefit becomes useful almost immediately or within a few years. For others, like Kentucky State Police Trooper Johnny Edrington who died in 1988 just months before his daughter was born, nearly two decades may pass before this benefit comes to fruition. But regardless, having the cost of college tuition covered lifts a heavy burden off the family.

FEDERAL-LEVEL BENEFITS

— Financial benefit

Kentucky families also can receive federal death benefits when they lose an officer in the line of duty. The exact amount of the federal Public Safety Officer Benefits >>

In addition to the \$80,000 lump-sum benefit, KRS 164.2841 makes surviving spouses and children of fallen officers eligible to receive free tuition at state-supported schools.



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH THOMAS

>> changes every year in October. As of October 2015, the death benefit is \$339,881 for an officer who has died as the direct and proximate result of a personal injury sustained in the line of duty. This same benefit is available to public safety officers who are permanently and totally disabled in the line of duty. These benefits are in addition to those received from the state.

The PSOB Office is responsible for reviewing nearly 900 death, disability and education claims submitted annually. The PSOB program was enacted in 1976 to assist in recruitment and retention of qualified public safety officers, establish the value communities place on contributions from those who are willing to serve their communities in dangerous circumstances and to offer peace of mind to men and women who seek careers in public safety.

The Hometown Heroes Survivors Benefits Act of 2003 amended the PSOB Act and states, "If a public safety officer dies as a direct and proximate result of a heart attack or stroke, that officer shall be presumed to have died as the direct and proximate

result of a personal injury sustained in the line of duty unless such presumption is not overcome by competent medical evidence to the contrary."

The law requires that the officer, while on duty, "engaged in a situation that involved non-routine stressful or strenuous physical law enforcement, fire suppression, rescue, hazardous material response, emergency medical services, prison security, disaster relief or other emergency response activity or participated in a training exercise involving non-routine stressful or strenuous physical activity." Further, the law requires that the officer died as a result of a heart attack or stroke suffered while engaging in such activity as described above, while still on that duty or not later than 24 hours after engaging in such activity.

PSOB benefit claims must be made within three years of the date of death and/or one year after receipt or denial of any benefits paid by the agency. This three-year time frame is considerably longer than the state time limit of six months. But unlike

state benefits where an extension can be granted by the Justice Cabinet secretary, there are no extensions on the PSOB benefit claims. After three years, the benefits can no longer be claimed.

— Educational benefit

Similar to state benefits, PSOB provides support for higher education to eligible spouses and children of public safety officers who died in the line of duty or were catastrophically disabled in the line of duty. As of October 2015, the Public Safety Officer Educational Assistance Program benefit is \$1,021 per month of full-time attendance.

This PSOE program is available for 45 months of full-time education or training,



◀ To view the entire PSOB Hometown Heroes benefits guide scan this QR Code with your smart device.

or for a proportional period of time for a part-time program. These funds may be used to defray educational expenses, including tuition, room and board, books, supplies and education-related fees.

NECESSARY DOCUMENTS

Knowing about the financial and educational benefits available to surviving family members when an officer is killed in the line of duty is only half the battle. Law enforcement agencies need to educate themselves about documents needed to apply for these benefits.

Below is a checklist of required documents for filing a PSOB death claim and the same documentation would need to be gathered for state benefits as well. Once all the documentation is gathered and submitted, a copy of the packet should be saved, to make applying for educational benefits easier when the time comes. The documentation packet should include:

- PSOB report of public safety officer's death form completed and signed by the head of the public safety agency or designee
- Detailed statement of circumstances from the initiation of the incident to the pronouncement of the officer's death
- Investigation, incident and accident reports, if any
- Death certificate
- Autopsy, toxicology report or a statement signed by the head of the public safety agency or designee explaining that none were performed
- PSOB claim for death benefits form completed and signed by the survivor/claimant
- Officer's current marriage certificate, if applicable
- Divorce decrees for the officer's and current spouse's previous marriages, including references to physical custody of any children, if applicable
- Death certificates for the officer's and current spouse's previous spouses, if any of the marriages ended in death, if applicable
- Birth certificates for all the officer's surviving children and step-children, regardless of age or dependency, identifying the children's parents, if applicable

There is no way an agency can ever fully be prepared to deal with a line-of-duty

death, but there are steps agencies can take in advance to make the weeks and months immediately following a tragedy easier for the family. For instance, agencies can require their officers review and update designation of beneficiaries forms every single year and keep it filed in their record. Agencies can ensure someone on the force knows these available benefits well and can help supply the family with necessary information and document gathering.

Talking about death benefits is an uncomfortable topic for most agencies and officers. Though all officers who don a badge and weapon and walk out the door know in the back of their mind there is a possibility they will not walk back through the door at shift's end. But, their love of the job and commitment to service allows them to put it out of mind and often never fully address that reality. Agency heads are guilty of the same, 'It won't happen to us,' attitude. But the reality is 128 officers

lost their lives in the line of duty in 2015 according to the Officer Down Memorial Page website.

"No one likes to plan for these things," Szurlinski said, "but it is so important that you do."

Abbie Darst can be reached at abbie.darst@ky.gov or (859) 622-6453.



◀ To view the PSOB benefits information kit guide scan this QR code with your smart device.



◀ Access a copy of the PSOB Beneficiary Designation form from the website by scanning this QR Code with your smart device.

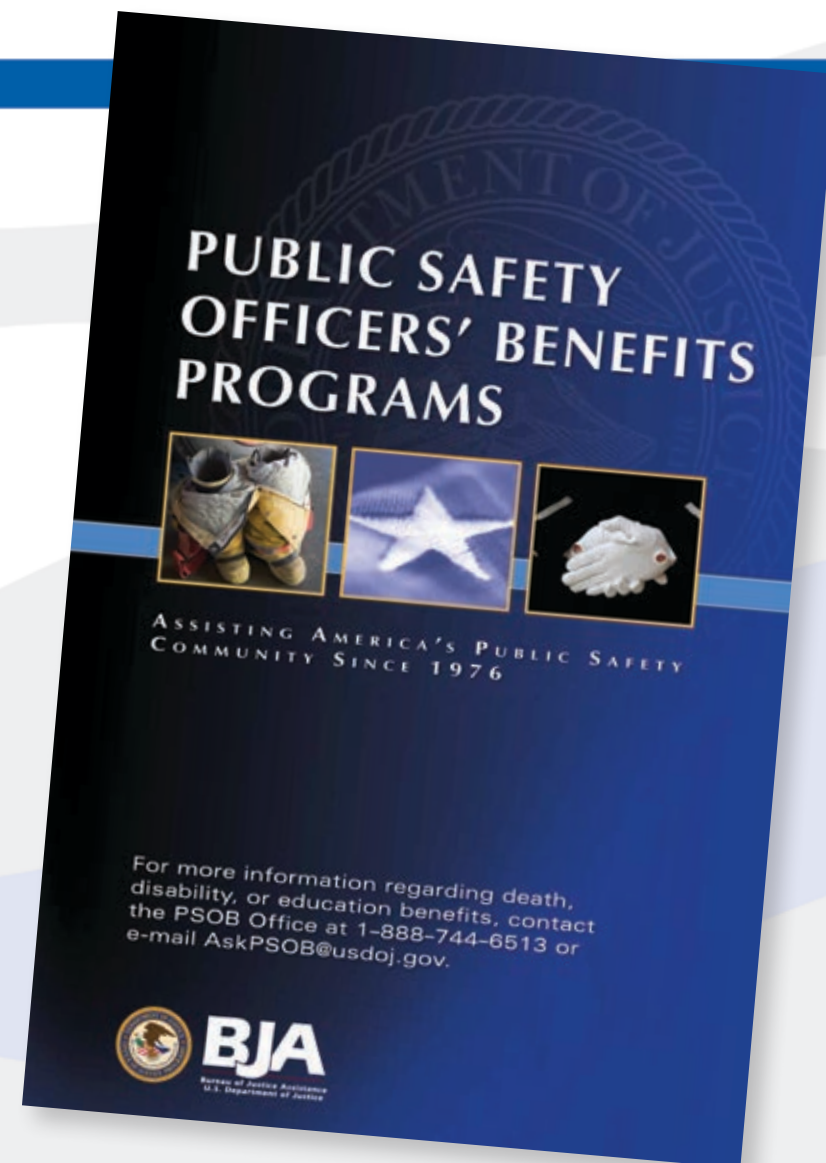


PHOTO BY ELIZABETH THOMAS

▲ Thousands joined together to say goodbye to Richmond Police Officer Daniel Ellis and lined interstates and highways to salute him, his family and fellow officers as they traveled to Daniel's final resting place.

You Owe It to Your Family

ABBIE DARST | PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Law enforcement can be a very satisfying and rewarding career. But it also can be a dangerous career. Nationally an officer dies in the line of duty every 58 hours. In 2014, 48,315 officers were assaulted resulting in 13,654 sustained injuries, according to the FBI's Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted 2014 Report.

As a law enforcement officer, you owe it to your family to be prepared for the moment no one ever wants to think about.

Alcoholic Beverage Control Sgt. Carrie Folsom speaks from a unique place on issues of preparation, and she doesn't shy away from sharing her experiences. Folsom has served as a law enforcement officer or law enforcement training instructor since 1998. She also is married to a Marine who currently is serving his sixth military deployment. Folsom feels compelled to share the lessons she has learned over two decades of constant preparation, as the spouse of a deploying Marine, for the benefit of her comrades.

POWER OF ATTORNEY AND LIVING WILL

With more than 48,000 officer assaults occurring in a single year, it is imperative that officers think about measures they need to have in place if they are severely injured or incapacitated in the line of duty.

"I think the most important document to have is a power of attorney," Folsom said. "If an officer is shot and is not dead, but is in a comatose state, someone has to have a power of attorney. It's an important document for a spouse or family member to have so they can carry on with daily life."



▲ Sgt. Carrie Folsom

"If an officer becomes disabled to the extent that he or she cannot take care of personal affairs, who can?" asked Tom Szurlinski, DOCJT Legal instructor and former Florence police chief.

Making medical decisions on behalf of the officer is critical and should be designated to someone who the officer trusts to make those decisions.

In the same vein, a living will or medical scope of treatment form, filled out by the officer before an incident ever occurs, will ensure the officer's wishes are adhered to in the event of a devastating injury.

A living will directs what you want done with the end-of-life decisions of continuing food, hydration, medical care and artificial life support, Szurlinski said.

"Do you really want to put that on your spouse to make those decisions in emotional moments?" he stressed.

WILL

With each deployment Folsom's husband, Tom, left for, the two learned more and more about how to make proper preparations if he were to be severely injured or killed during his tour of duty. Before leaving for his first tour of duty, she and Tom put together a will they thought was sufficient.

"From the first deployment to the second, one of the biggest things we focused on was making his will much, much more

How Mommy Does It

For women in law enforcement, preparing their family for the possibility of tragedy might be of even greater importance. In many homes, it is mom who primarily tends to all the details that surround child rearing, Folsom said. Even in homes where the dad is very involved, the loss of the mother brings to light all the small things she carried around in her mind day to day. And if there is a not-so-involved dad, he may not have a clue on some things, she said.

"If daddy has to take over, will he know what to do?" Folsom asked. "Or will the child say, 'Mommy doesn't do it like that?' So have a list of all those things. If you have kids, this is huge. Everyone has their quirks, and I think it's really important." ■

specific," Folsom said. "The generic one we started with really didn't cover any of the details we needed it to cover, but we didn't realize that at the time.

"With the third deployment we got more into finances," Folsom continued, "specifically relating to the mortgage and accounts. I was only on one account, and though that's where most of the money went, he had separate accounts that if he died would have been tied up in the estate. He had money in stocks and bonds too. Now all the account numbers are there and laid out in the will and the power of attorney paperwork."

Szurlinski cautions officers on adopting the mentality that they don't really have that much, so a detailed will, or a will at all, is not a big deal.

"But what if you die young in a car wreck and there is a law suit on the driver who crossed the center line and you had 50 more years to live, work and earn money, not to mention the trauma on your children" he asked? "You could be looking at a large amount of money; who takes care of the financial part? Do you set up a trust?"

It often can be difficult for young officers to process any of these steps of preparation, but being proactive is key, Folsom said.

"Especially young recruits — are we teaching them to be prepared?" Folsom asked. "I hope someone is talking to them because when they graduate they still are in superman mode. As we see more and more deaths occur in law enforcement, I'd rather be proactive than reactive, but I'm afraid it will be the other way around."

NOTIFICATION

Another step in making advanced preparations for your family includes the notification process. If an officer is killed on duty, officers will be sent to the home of the

officer to notify the spouse or parents of the fallen officer.

"[A spouse] doesn't want to sit there with a bunch of strangers and find out their husband (or wife) has been shot or killed," Folsom said of the notification process. "That's why as a supervisor it is important to me to meet and know all the spouses of my officers, so they know who the heck I am if I ever have to come knock on their door.

"Or maybe in your department, it's the chaplain who notifies the family," Folsom continued. "You better hope your spouse knows the chaplain, or know whether your spouse would even want a chaplain there. If there is another officer who knows your family well, you could make a special request with your supervisor for that officer to go on that notification visit, too, to make it easier on your spouse."

Folsom has had the ability to prepare for the possibility her husband will not come back from a deployment. They had advance notice of the deployment and she has had six separate experiences to learn and gather new information to ensure everything is in line if that horrible day ever comes when two Marines knock on her door. Unfortunately, law enforcement families don't get second, third or fourth chances to prepare for that day. The best gift officers can give to their families is putting all the pieces in place so there is no additional trauma inflicted on their spouse and children if the next day they walk out the door ends up their last.

"I don't enjoy talking about death or dying, but I know it has to be planned for," Folsom said. "But until those Marines come to my door, I don't fret, because I have a plan, and I know exactly what will happen." ■

Abbie Darst can be reached at abbie.darst@ky.gov or (859) 622-6453.



PHOTO BY ABBIE DARST



Sheriff
Fred Shortridge

Montgomery County Sheriff

Fred Shortridge was elected sheriff in 1998. Prior to becoming sheriff of Montgomery County, Shortridge served 22 years with, and retired from the Kentucky State Police Post 8 in Morehead. Shortridge serves on various boards and is a member of the Fraternal Order of Police. He loves going fishing with his son and friends. Also, he enjoys spending as much time as possible with his grandkids. Shortridge and his wife, Sandy, have been married for 39 years and have two children, Nathan Shortridge and Leighanna Swartz. He has four grandchildren and one on the way.

HOW DID SERVING KSP HELP IN YOUR TRANSITION AS SHERIFF OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY?

The transition from working with KSP to the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office was challenging at first. Even though we are both law enforcement agencies, I learned quickly that the duties as sheriff expand greatly.

After understanding those obligations, the transition was much easier. Having worked Montgomery County for several years, I understood the needs of the citizens. The bigger challenge was starting with very little and knowing it would take time to get the office to where I wanted it. We accomplished that by working together with our community and the county officials.

WHAT WOULD YOU DESCRIBE AS YOUR MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE TAKING OFFICE?

When I first took office, I had six deputies. I had no equipment and our cruisers were not safe to be on the road. By working

with my fiscal court and receiving grants, I now have 14 certified, full-time deputies, five part-time certified deputies and two court security officers. I also have two of-office personnel. I maintain a 24-hour, seven days a week patrol and respond to all calls that come through our 911 dispatch. I am able to purchase new cruisers when needed and provide the latest equipment to assist officers in performing their daily duties. I worked with my fiscal court to get deputies hazardous duty retirement.

By receiving grants, I was able to upgrade our radio system to digital radios. I installed computers in our cruisers and replaced our body armor. By being fiscally responsible, I have returned \$622,160 to my fiscal court since being in office and received \$798,804 in total grants. That is a total savings of \$1,420,964.

Some additional programs I added are citizen police academy that lasts for 11 weeks, a youth academy that lasts for one week, and a five-day Bluegrass K-9 Trials certification. The K-9 trials bring many agencies to our state to receive their certifications. And recently, the city of Jeffersonville gave me a building within city limits to establish a substation for the sheriff's office. The building will be used for training, squad meetings and a place where we can do our reports. I also gave keys to our KSP troopers so they have a place to go when needed. I installed the same tax program at the substation and linked it with the program I have at the main office so we could collect taxes this coming year.

WHY IS RECRUITING EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO YOU, AND HOW HAVE YOU BEEN SUCCESSFUL WITH RECRUITING?

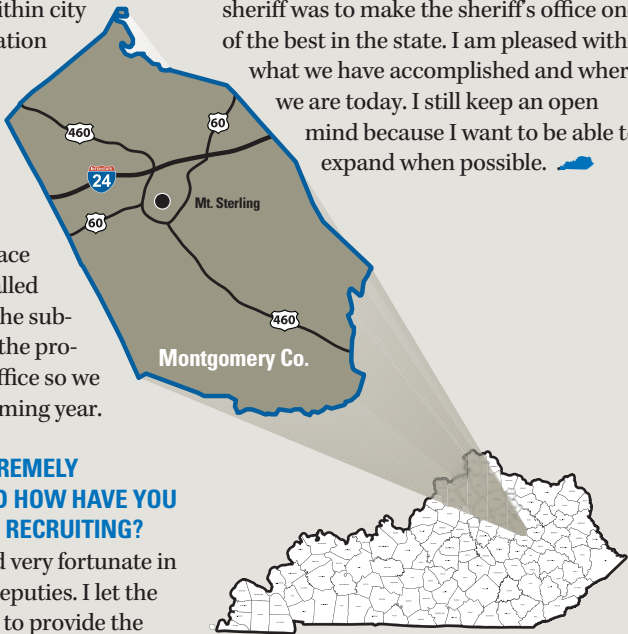
I have been successful and very fortunate in recruiting and retaining deputies. I let the deputies do their job. I try to provide the

equipment and training they need, and I have an open-door policy where they can come and talk with me at any time, on any subject — job related or personal.

The men and women I have working for me are professionals, and they care about their job and serving their community. I see that in their reports and in feedback I receive from the community. I constantly praise the men and women publicly and in person for their service. The deputies I have are a positive reflection on me and our office.

WHAT CHARACTERISTICS BEST DESCRIBE YOUR DEPARTMENT AND KEEP YOU UNIFIED?

If I had to use just one word to describe my office and to keep us unified, it would be respect. I say that because we all need to respect each other, not only within the office we serve, but the citizens within our communities. But I also need to add two words, trust and honesty. You have to show your community your office is honest, and once you prove it, you gain their trust. My goal when I first was elected sheriff was to make the sheriff's office one of the best in the state. I am pleased with what we have accomplished and where we are today. I still keep an open mind because I want to be able to expand when possible.



"The men and women I have working for me are professionals, and they care about their job and serving their community. I see that in their reports and in feedback I receive from the community."



Chief
Douglas Nelson

Somerset Police Department

Douglas Nelson is a lifelong resident of Pulaski County. His career began in February 1988 as a deputy under the late Sheriff Sam Catron while still attending college at Eastern Kentucky University. In May 1990, he started working as a patrolman in SPD's Patrol Division.

In 1997, he became a detective, then, in 1999, a lieutenant in charge of the Criminal Investigation Division.

Nelson is a 1984 graduate of Pulaski County High School. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Police Administration with a minor in Corrections and Juvenile Justice from Eastern Kentucky University in 1988. He graduated from the Kentucky Department of Criminal Justice Training Basic Academy Class No. 187, received a police instructor certificate and is a graduate of the Criminal Justice Executive Development Class No. 5. Nelson holds seven Career Development Certificates from the Kentucky Law Enforcement Council.

HOW HAS SPD'S KENTUCKY ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE ACCREDITATION HELPED YOUR AGENCY?

We were the ninth agency in Kentucky to receive accreditation from KACP in 1996. We will be presented our fifth reaccreditation this summer at the annual KACP conference. This fifth reaccreditation represents 20 years of commitment to the program.

Accreditation is important to us because it represents a police department that strives to meet professional standards expected by our community. Meeting expectations of our community is a difficult task, and so is the accreditation process. Both are the result of hard work from our entire agency.

"Accreditation is important to us because it represents a police department that strives to meet professional standards expected by our community."

HOW DID SPD'S NEW BUILDING COME ABOUT?

The Somerset Energy Center was made possible by a loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Somerset was able to use its natural gas pipeline to develop a building that may be able to monitor the 150 miles of natural gas pipeline throughout central and eastern Kentucky. The 36,000 square-foot structure is much larger than our current city hall and police department.

We moved into our current building in January 1952, which was a remodeled tire recapping business and service station. We are excited about the areas we will occupy in the Energy Center.

HOW DO YOU KEEP YOUR WORKFORCE MOTIVATED, SKILLED AND PROFESSIONAL?

We always have placed a high priority on training. Officers are encouraged to seek specialty assignments and receive additional training beyond their mandated 40 hours. Unfortunately, most training outside DOCJT costs money. We built additional money into our budget to accommodate those costs, as well as hotel and travel.

Motivation to keep employees in law enforcement is a problem for many agencies and chiefs. The quantity and quality of our candidate pool is shrinking. We continue to provide as many benefits as we are able, and work toward an environment that supports long-term commitment from employees.

WHAT ARE YOUR LONG-TERM GOALS?

Since becoming acting chief in 2007, it always has been my goal to be progressive and provide the most for our department. We were able to add an honor guard,

bike patrol, dive team and manned and unmanned aircrafts in a new Aviation Unit.

One program I am particularly proud of is our physical-fitness program. I wanted to provide something for our staff that would benefit the department, the officers and their families. I wanted to improve their health, eating habits and physical activity. The results have shown reduced on-duty injuries. It has improved the officers' considerations on their own health and a number of officers have experienced considerable weight loss.

WHAT IS THE NO. 1 RULE FOR EFFECTIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT RECRUITING, AND HOW HAVE YOU BEEN SUCCESSFUL?

The best rule for recruitment is providing a professional police department your community and officers are proud of. There are many aspects of the department beyond my control. Budget, cruisers, manpower and employee pay are set by the mayor and the city council. It's my job to make the most with what I am given.

Kentucky's sworn peace officers are some of the most highly trained in our nation. The time is past due to pay our officers salaries that are comparable with neighboring states.



Seek THEM OUT Bring THEM IN

ABBIE DARST | PROGRAM COORDINATOR

PART II | Police internships are a new tactic for recruiting the best and brightest into a law enforcement career

Law enforcement faces three challenges: recruiting good candidates, training them to understand their policing role and do the job safely and effectively, and retaining the best officers in the profession. Kentucky has spent two decades developing and progressing police training, yet many agencies throughout the commonwealth struggle to either recruit or retain the absolute best officers.

This is the second of a four-part series diving into some of today's biggest recruitment and retention issues or strategies that affect law enforcement agencies across the nation, but often go overlooked and unnoticed in an ever-evolving workforce landscape.

Every law enforcement agency wants the absolute best officers they can get. Intelligent, enthusiastic, open-minded, honest and creative people who communicate effectively and are passionate about service exist in every community across the commonwealth, but getting them to walk through the door of a police department and apply for a job — that becomes the challenge.

But maybe that's the problem. Too many departments still are waiting for those amazing candidates to come to them when, in this day and age, they need to be seeking them out. If agencies want to attract quality candidates, has their command staff considered making a list of colleges and universities in their area, contacting their criminal justice program coordinators and having a conversation about internships?

Internships actually provide a three-way positive benefit to university students and the law enforcement agency. First, many college-degree programs require students to complete an internship with a certain number of hours in order to graduate. Finding internships often can be a daunting task for college students with hectic schedules and limited resources. So providing police internships meets a need these students already have to fulfill.

Second, an internship can expose students to the intricacies of a law enforcement career who previously may never have considered a career in law enforcement.

"I think other departments could find people who wouldn't typically go into law enforcement at internship fairs," Investigator Randy Harris said about the internships fairs he has attended at the University of Louisville. Harris works for the Division of Insurance Fraud Investigation.

"At these fairs, there are tons of kids coming through. Your conversation and interaction might spark with someone who never would have thought about law enforcement as a career," he continued. "Those are people you many otherwise never have encountered."

Third, agencies get to sell themselves and discover if this student is a candidate for future hire.

"We try to keep it simple, interesting and enjoyable for the student, and we try to sell our brand," said Hopkinsville

Deputy Chief Michael Seis. "We want them to be successful, but we also get to review what kind of candidate they would be. It's an insight for us to see their personality."

Police internships may be one of the newer recruitment tools for agencies to consider, but there are as many ways to conduct such a program as there are police departments in the state. No two programs have to look alike to be effective and produce those three-way benefits.

ASHLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

Former Ashland police officer and Kentucky State Police trooper, James Stephens, contacted the Ashland Police Department about conducting a ride-along program with students at Ohio University's Southern Campus. Stephens, who now serves as the university's director of law enforcement

technology, was looking for a way to give his students a dose of reality in what a police career actually looks like.

"It's an opportunity for the college to expand and put reality into its instruction and at the same time it affords us the opportunity to tap into candidates for police jobs," said Ashland Maj. Mark McDowell.

For Ashland, this ride-along program isn't exactly an internship program, but it has fostered a relationship with a local university that is mutually beneficial to both entities. Students come to the police department for about eight hours throughout the semester and ride with different officers. Officers are not restricted as to what types of calls they will answer while with these students. Students are exposed to a wide variety of officers and incidents occurring in Ashland, and they get to see how officers actually handle real calls for service.

"They have one perspective they are looking at," McDowell said about college students. "They have an interesting view of policing, and we hope to have a positive influence on that perspective. In addition, this might give us an inside advantage on attracting viable candidates to our agency. I feel it will be a win-win for our department."

HOPKINSVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

In 2008, the Hopkinsville Police Department began its internship program with

a ride-along program similar to Ashland's. The Hopkinsville Community College approached then-Chief Guy Howie about allowing its students to complete internships.

"It was mainly about logging hours with the police department," Seis said of the early program. "The students had a certain number of hours they had to complete at the department."

At the time, the department's policy only allowed someone to do a ride along once every 30 days, so they amended the policy to allow these students to ride more often and get in their necessary hours.

Then in 2010, Hopkinsville decided to professionalize the internship program and expand it to include other nearby colleges, such as Daymar Institute and Austin Peay State. The department usually has about three to four interns per semester, assigned under the Special Operations Unit. Typically students need about 100 hours to receive credit for their internship, Seis said.

After the initial background check and paperwork is complete, a schedule is planned for each intern. Working within their class and work schedules, each intern is assigned time to experience every single facet of the workings of the police department, Seis said. From clerks and dispatchers to K-9 officers and detectives, these students experience the gamut of a criminal-justice career.

Once they experience each division, students are asked what they enjoyed the most



▲ Hopkinsville Police Deputy Chief Michael Seis formalized and professionalized the agency's internship program in 2010, allowing its three or four interns per year to experience every part of the department. Twenty-six interns have passed through Hopkinsville since 2010. PHOTO SUBMITTED

or think they would want to specialize in, then they are scheduled to spend more extensive time within that section.

"We want it to be more than just logging hours, we want it to be enjoyable and for them to get something out of it," Seis said. "If they find a niche they like, they may stay local and pursue a career in law enforcement." >>

We want it to be more than just logging hours, we want it to be enjoyable and for them to get something out of it. If they find a niche they like, they may stay local and pursue a career in law enforcement.

>> Since 2010, 26 interns have passed through the Hopkinsville Police Department. Seven have gone on to full-time careers in the criminal justice system — four stayed in Christian County and one currently is working for HPD.

“Yes, we want to get the best candidates,” Seis said, “but law enforcement as a whole needs our help and we need to contribute to that as well. We also are serving the greater good for the profession.”

In addition to recruiting aspects of internships, relationships built with each college benefits the department as well. If the department has a question or needs a study conducted, they contact the professors at these universities and students will research the material and report back to the department on their findings, Seis said.

The students get credit for the work and the department has a useable resource for the information it sought.

DIVISION OF INSURANCE FRAUD INVESTIGATION

Bringing in students from UofL, Kentucky State University and Eastern Kentucky University, the Division of Insurance Fraud Investigation began its official internship program in 2012, after having a great experience with its first intern, Tra’sean James.

As an intern, James handled incoming fraud complaints and preliminary interviews over the phone, attended court proceedings with investigators and carried out a number of administrative tasks. At the time of his internship, James was a senior at UofL and that year he completed

two internships — one with the Department of Insurance and the other with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

“I honestly didn’t know about the division at all and didn’t know what to expect,” James said. “I didn’t know how exciting it would be.”

As a unique section of law enforcement, investigators Harris and Shawn Boggs said that unfamiliarity is one of the main purposes for adopting an internship program.

“We look at it as an opportunity to expose students to other forms of law enforcement,” Harris said. “Once they see what we do and how we do it, they can determine if they are interested in investigations or just normal uniform work. We expose students to something they wouldn’t have thought of until they were in law enforcement for a while, but we’re showing them there are other options up front.”

In order to fulfill the 120 hours he needed for his internship, James drove from Louisville to Frankfort — where the Division of Insurance Fraud Investigation is headquartered — and worked a full day every Friday.

“When doing the internship it was good to get a basic understanding of what the division did and the different types of fraud they dealt with,” James said.

For James, his internship experience sealed the deal for him — he knew that this was where he wanted to be and what he wanted to do. After coming back in a temporary position after he graduated, James was hired on as a full-time investigator in November 2014.

During his semester at the division, James also was assigned a project to research all the fraud claims that came into the division and break them down to see where the majority of claims originated. That information was going to be used to decide where future investigators hired by the department should be assigned to be the most effective.

“I truly enjoyed that project,” James said. “I learned a lot about the fraudulent activity going on across the state, and it made me feel like I had control and a sense of real input.”

DAVIESS COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE

Western Kentucky University — Owensboro campus contacted Daviess County



▲ Intern Colton Black completes his routine checks of the WKU-Owensboro campus parking lot. PHOTO BY JIM ROBERTSON

Sheriff Keith Cain about a way to help both the university and the students in their internship program. A security program was born from that conversation. DCSO interns are assigned as security guards for the WKU — Owensboro campus. On their first day, they undergo a four-hour orientation with Sheriff Cain and Sgt. Nick Roby and are supplied with a uniform — 5-11 pants and a red WKU shirt.

“They are the eyes and ears of the campus,” Capt. Barry Smith said.

Students are trained in CPR and first aid, and taught how to take a report if they run into any issues. However, they are only allowed to respond in low-key situations, and required to call 911 or an on-duty officer if there is anything close to an emergency.

“They are mainly getting the idea of what the job involves, and it’s a way for them not to just do ride-alongs for the entire semester,” Smith said. “And it allows them to take hold of something and make it their own.”



▲ Colton Black, a sophomore at Owensboro Community and Technical College, prepares a duty report for Daviess County Sheriff’s Sgt. Nick Roby, who oversees the Daviess County Sheriff’s Office internship program. Patrolling the WKU-Owensboro campus gives the interns an experience of which they can take ownership. PHOTO BY JIM ROBERTSON

During the semester, Sgt. Roby checks on them each night and builds a rapport with them. Each student works at least one night per week.

In addition, the students do spend time at the sheriff’s office getting to know the staff and seeing the inner workings of the department, and they do experience ride-alongs. Throughout the semester they are graded on attendance and on their written reports, then at the end, they write a term paper about the class and their experience, Smith said.

“I would recommend a program like this because it’s so structured,” Smith said. “In previous years we had interns come in but it wasn’t structured, and I don’t know if they got a total feel for what the job is about.

“I think this experience helps put them ahead of the game, especially because of the rapport they build with our deputies,” Smith continued. “If an intern has been real active with wanting to do things within the department, then it gives them a leg up on the inner workings of the department.”

Since beginning this internship program, Daviess County has hired one intern as a full-time deputy.

No matter what an agency’s internship program looks like, the exposure of the profession and gaining the knowledge of the character and personality of potential job candidates makes it a viable program for any department to consider as a recruitment resource. It is a way for the community to interact with, and learn about, the police department, and a way for the department to give back to the community by helping students succeed in their course studies.

“Internships help students graduate and give them the opportunity to see if they are cut out for the job,” James said. “It eliminates the problem of hiring someone and then having them learn that they don’t like the career. It helps with weeding out perspective employees.”

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Tra’sean James was the first Office of Insurance, Fraud Division intern in 2012. After discovering his passion for the work, James went on to become a full-time investigator for the division.

PHOTO BY JIM ROBERTSON

CASEY'S LAW

SHAWN HERRON | STAFF ATTORNEY,
DOJCT LEGAL TRAINING SECTION



PHOTOS COURTESY OF 123RF.COM

In 2004, The Kentucky General Assembly passed what has become Casey's Law — more formally known as “The Matthew Casey Wethington Act for Substance Abuse Intervention.” Codified as KRS 222.430 - .437, this law allows family members and other interested individuals to seek a court order to force an individual into involuntary drug or alcohol abuse treatment, when their actions are such that they are presenting an imminent threat of danger to self, family or others. This might include, for example, those who have suffered multiple overdoses requiring emergency medical care, or are neglecting or abusing their children, or who have been involved in a vehicle crash as a result of drug impairment.

With the influx of heroin in Kentucky, once again Casey's law has returned to the forefront. Its use, however, has been sporadic and simply initiating the process is not a guarantee the court will in fact, issue the order.

As is always the case with a law that carries an individual's name, the underlying circumstances that led to the enactment of the law are tragic. On August 19, 2002, 23-year-old Matthew Wethington, known as Casey, of Campbell County, died after a third overdose in just a few months. After the first overdose, and because he had expressed no suicidal intent, he was released from the hospital, only to overdose again shortly thereafter. After a second overdose, and an unrelated marijuana arrest, his mother begged that he be kept in custody, but he was released. Finally, On August 9, he overdosed for the third time, in Cincinnati, and died 10 days later. Within a few months, two other young men from the same area also suffered overdoses that proved fatal. That set the stage for Wethington's mother,

Charlotte, to begin the process of lobbying for a law that would allow families and friends in a similar situation to enlist the aid of the judicial system to force an addict into a treatment program. And in 2004, the Kentucky General Assembly agreed.

The eight statutes that collectively make up Casey's law provide for the involuntary treatment for an adult for alcohol and drug abuse. It strikes a balance between the rights of patients and the hope by their loved ones that being forced into a treatment program will continue long enough to make a change in their addiction. At the outset, it is clear that the process is intended to mirror, to a great extent, the laws that were already in existence to provide for the involuntary hospitalization of mentally ill persons, and the rights of the latter were specifically guaranteed to those being adjudicated for their addiction.

The specific criteria for involuntary treatment, as laid out in KRS 222.431, reads as follows:

No person shall be ordered to undergo treatment unless that person:

- (1) Suffers from alcohol and other drug abuse;
- (2) Presents an imminent threat of danger to self, family or others as a result of alcohol and other drug abuse, or there exists a substantial likelihood of such a threat in the near future; and
- (3) Can reasonably benefit from treatment.

The process must start with a verified (sworn to and signed) petition with the district court. In Kentucky, AOC-700A is used (see image top, right). That form reflects the underlying statute in that it requires the petitioner to choose whether they are seeking a 60-day or a 360-day course of treatment and to provide a detailed accounting of the reasons why the petitioner

believes that the subject meets the criteria listed above. It also requires that the petitioner acknowledge they are legally obligated to pay for all costs of the treatment, which on a practical note, requires they already have made arrangements for the evaluation and hospitalization in advance.

Once the petition has been filed, the Court is required to examine the petitioner, under oath, as to the contents of the petition. If the Court is satisfied that there is probable cause, the Court is to set a hearing date within 14 days and notify the respondent and any other interested parties. Prior to the hearing, no later than 24 hours before it is scheduled, the subject is to be examined by two qualified health professionals, presumably in the field, at least one of whom is a physician, and form AOC-703A (see image bottom, right) is to be completed by each as to their findings. Following a hearing, if the court agrees that treatment is warranted, the Court may then order the subject into treatment for the designated period of time. If the subject does not comply with the evaluation or the ordered treatment, they may be cited and jailed for contempt of court.

If the subject is believed to be an imminent threat of danger to themselves, their family or others, they may be ordered into an immediate hospitalization for 72 hours, similar to the process for an involuntary commitment for mental illness. (A subject under that order cannot be held in jail pending transportation, unless they already are under a contempt of court order, however, so immediate transportation will be needed.) If the subject is summoned to attend the examination or the hearing and does not do so, the court may order the sheriff, or any other peace office, to transport the subject to the designated facility. Specifically, and different from that provided for with mental illness, if needed, the transportation costs shall be paid for by the petitioner.

Note that this statute, in addition to mirroring the statute for involuntary treatment for mental illness, also serves to extend a law that was already in existence, KRS 222.441, enacted in 1994, that allows a family member or guardian to force a minor into hospitalization or treatment for alcohol or other drug abuse. The minor who is forced into such treatment without

consent has the right to petition to district court as to whether the treatment is necessary and appropriate.

Law enforcement becomes involved in the use of this law in several ways. In some cases, law enforcement, most commonly the sheriff's offices, is responsible for serving the orders and/or transporting subjects when necessary. Officers may also respond to the scene of overdoses and other emergencies, and should be prepared to advise concerned friends and family members of the option of taking out a petition under Casey's Law.

Over the past few years, statistical data collected through the Administrative Office of the Courts indicates the use of Casey's Law provisions varies dramatically around the state, based upon population and where heroin is being seen. For example, in Boone County (northern Kentucky) in 2015, there were approximately 50 petitions brought, and 14 judgments and orders granted, with Campbell and Kenton counties, adjacent to Boone County, showing similarly high numbers. However, Fayette County showed only four petitions, of which two were granted, and in Jefferson, for the same time frame, approximately 44 petitions, with fewer than 10 being ordered. The statistics, of course, don't reflect why a particular petition isn't granted and it could be because the individual agreed to voluntarily enter treatment or because the petitioner was not able to pay for the necessary treatment. Henderson County had more than 10 cases in 2015, which might be explained by its proximity to Evansville, Ind., while adjacent Daviess County apparently had none. It also is possible the lack of use is simply because of local unfamiliarity with the law itself.

With the expanding abuse of heroin, and heroin mixed with other drugs, exploding throughout the commonwealth, law enforcement agencies must be aware of all of the options available to assist families in responding to the tragedy of drug use. Casey's Law is another option that could be offered to assist in getting an addicted individual help. 🏡

FOR MORE INFORMATION: www.caseyslaw.org

Shawn Herron can be reached at shawn.herron@ky.gov or (859) 622-8064.

AOC-700A
Rev. 7-04
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Commonwealth of Kentucky
Court of Justice
www.caseyslaw.org
KRS 222

Voluntary Petition
For Involuntary Treatment
(Alcohol/Drug Abuse)

Case No. _____
Court _____ District _____
County _____

IN THE INTEREST OF:
RESPONDENT _____
RESPONDENT'S RESIDENCE ADDRESS _____

Current Location (if different) _____

1. PETITIONER, _____
(Petitioner's Name-Please print)

(Petitioner's Address-Please print)
states that he/she is: _____
() Spouse; () Relative; () Friend; or () Guardian, of the above-named Respondent.

2. PETITIONER further states that the name, address, and residence of persons related to the Respondent are: (if unknown, so state)
Parents or guardian: _____
Spouse: _____
Near relative: _____
Other: _____

3. PETITIONER believes that the Respondent is a person suffering from alcohol and other drug abuse because (please facts to support belief):

AOC-703A
Rev. 10-90
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Commonwealth of Kentucky
Court of Justice
www.courts.ky.gov
KRS 222
HEALTH PROFESSIONAL

CERTIFICATION OF QUALIFIED
HEALTH PROFESSIONAL
Involuntary Treatment (Alcohol/Drug Abuse)

Case No. _____
Court _____ District _____
County _____

IN THE INTEREST OF:
RESPONDENT _____

1. Comes the Affiant, _____
and states that he/she is a Qualified Health Professional as defined in KRS 202A.011, and he/she is:
☒ A Qualified Mental Health Professional as defined in KRS 202A.011; and/or
☒ An Alcohol and Drug Counselor certified under KRS Chapter 206; and/or
A Physician, licensed under the laws of Kentucky to practice medicine or osteopathy, or a medical officer of the government of the United States while engaged in the performance of official duties.

2. Affiant further states that he/she examined the above-named Respondent and based on that examination, in his/her professional opinion, the Respondent
☒ does, ☒ does not suffer from alcohol and/or other drug abuse.
☒ does, ☒ does not present a danger to self, family or others, or there
☒ does, ☒ does not exist a substantial likelihood of such a threat in the near future, and
☒ can, ☒ cannot reasonably benefit from treatment.

3. The facts that support Affiant's belief that Respondent does suffer from alcohol and/or other drug abuse:

4. The facts that support Affiant's belief that Respondent is a danger or threat of danger to self, family or others, or that there exists a substantial likelihood of such a threat in the near future:

5. Diagnostic impressions:

Reset Form



NEW LEGISLATION

The following is a summary of new legislation enacted by the 2016 Kentucky General Assembly. Unless otherwise indicated, new statutes are effective as of July 15, 2016. A full summary of all new legislation is available on the Kentucky Department of Criminal Justice Training website, <https://docjt.ky.gov/legal/>.

SB 16 — Children and vehicles

(Emergency — effective immediately)

Provides that a person who enters a vehicle for the purpose of rescuing a child will be immune from liability for damages, provided he or she reasonably believes it is an emergency to do so and notifies emergency services prior to the entry.

SB 40 — Juvenile proceedings

Allows Kentucky to develop a pilot project to explore making some juvenile proceedings open to the public.

SB 56 — DUI look-back period

(Emergency — effective immediately)

Changes the look-back period that applies to prior DUI offenses to 10 years, previously it was five years.

SB 60 — Vulnerable victims

(Emergency — effective immediately)

Creates a new sub-category of offenses relating specifically to vulnerable victims, including children younger than 14, individuals who have an intellectual disability, are physically helpless or mentally incapacitated.

SB 63 — Sexual assault

(Emergency — effective immediately)

All sexual assault kits currently held by Kentucky law enforcement agencies shall be submitted to the Kentucky State Police

for analysis by Jan. 1, 2017. Further, by that date, all agencies shall have a policy and procedure for sexual-assault exams that meets the parameters of the statute. Depending upon its size, every law enforcement agency shall have one or more officers trained in sexual-assault investigation.

SB 84 — Stopped vehicles (traffic)

Waste collection and individuals participating in the Adopt-a-Highway program are permitted to stop a vehicle, where normally it cannot be stopped, for up to 15 minutes.

SB 206 — Reemployment of retired officers

Provides guidelines for the rehiring of retired law enforcement officers.

SB 228 — Bullying

Defines bullying under school law and requires schools to have specific codes of conduct concerning bullying.

HB 4 — Synthetic drugs

(Emergency — effective immediately)

Moves most hydrocodone products into



Schedule II. Adds W-15 and W-18 into Schedule I. W-15 and W-18 are synthetic opiates, considered much more potent than fentanyl. Increases the penalty for trafficking in synthetic drugs to a class D felony for the first offense, with possession of synthetic drugs being increased to a class A misdemeanor. Also removes the exclusion of synthetic drugs from the first degree unlawful transaction of a minor.

HB 40 — Felony expungement

Creates a process for individuals who meet certain qualifications to have certain class D felony convictions expunged, no sooner than five years following the completion of the sentence.

HB 124 — Body-worn cameras

Adds body-worn cameras to grant funding available through the Department of Homeland Security.



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY 128RF.COM

HB 132 — Booking photos

Prohibits the use of booking photos in commercial publications, if the publication charges a fee for their removal.

HB 162 — Harassing communications

Adds electronic communications (e-mail, text, etc.) to the forms of communication, which may be considered harassing.

HB 175 — Federal peace officers

Adds U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers to the list of federal officers who may exercise state law enforcement powers under KRS 61.365. (This is a technical correction, as previously, the statute read Customs Enforcement.)

HB 189 — Interlocal agreements

Simplifies the process for amending the parties in an interlocal agreement

HB 204 — Peace officer certification

(Emergency — effective immediately)

Allows alternative methods of high school graduate status to be recognized for peace officers, court security officers and telecommunicators.

HB 250 — Arrest powers

Amends KRS 431.015 to add possession of burglar's tools, domestic violence shelter trespass, receiving stolen property and giving a peace officer false identifying information, to allow an arrest in the listed crimes, rather than a citation. Modifies giving a peace officer a false name or address to read false identifying information, instead and adds giving a false birth date, as well.

HB 314 — Peace officer firearms

Adds a provision to KRS 237 that confirms off-duty peace officers, and retired peace officers specifically meeting the

requirements of LEOSA, may carry concealed weapons at all times and in all locations in the commonwealth where on-duty officers are permitted to carry.

HB 381 — Coroner training

Sets basic training requirement for Kentucky coroners at 40 hours.

HB 434 — Coroners

Requires an outgoing coroner to turn over all records within 10 days of the end of the term to the fiscal court and requires the fiscal court to deliver records to the new coroner. Provides that deputy coroners lose their eligibility to perform their duties if they fail to complete mandatory training.

HB 384 — Emergency services health and fitness

Allows for a local law enforcement agency to create a health and fitness incentive program. However, governments may not use the program to measure job performance.



HB 428 — Animal cruelty

Defines "dog fight/fighting" and amends KRS 525.125 (Cruelty to animals in the first degree) to affirm dog fighting is included under that statute.

HB 473 — Peace officer training

Sets the required hours for peace officer basic training at 928 and sets in-service and basic training requirements for telecommunicators as well. 🐾



Law Enforcement Interpersonal Communications and Conflict Management:

The IMPACT Model

The IMPACT Model was designed specifically to provide law enforcement professionals with a systematic, easy to follow model of interpersonal communications and conflict management skills that can be applied to virtually any law enforcement contact. The author, Brian D. Fitch is a 33-year veteran of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office, and a national and international instructor on topics of communication, leadership and ethics. He states that if we build the right process, we will be able to become more successful at connecting and communicating with others, avoiding unnecessary hostilities and frivolous complaints, and accomplishing more. Fitch's model is built around six core principles based on the idea that process matters.

Below is a brief statement of the six core principles.

Identify and Manage Emotions — use three effective communication tools: ask questions, reframe and paraphrase.

Master the Story — use active listening skills: We need to listen beyond the words a person uses (verbal and non-verbal). Mastering the story requires that we suspend our assumptions, ask questions and carefully listen to the person's answers.

Promote Positive Behavior — deal with the fundamental needs of uncertainty: Officers who understand the human need for control can provide choices and use this to their benefit by allowing people to feel as if they are making voluntary decisions to cooperate or comply, whether or not such choices actually exist.

Achieve rapport — maintaining rapport is critical: The better we establish and maintain rapport, the more successful we are in connecting, motivating and gaining voluntary compliance.

Control Your Responses — anytime we "lose it," we are a danger to ourselves and others: Our inability to separate practical issues from emotional ones can create a host of problems, including stifling cooperation, impeding effective communication and reducing our problem-solving effectiveness.

Take Perspective — realize that that there are as many different ways to see and experience the same event as there are people involved. The better we understand the other person and his/her problem, the more our influence grows, often allowing us to gain cooperation in situations where we previously had little control.

While the use of all these principles is critical to officers dealing effectively with angry people, managing conflict, motivating others and solving problems, Fitch said, the order of their application may vary. Every law enforcement contact is unique. He uses an example of how an officer may find it helpful to begin with the first principle (identify and manage emotions) and work methodically through the model in one instance, but may discover it is more effective to begin with, for example, the fifth principle (control your responses) before reverting to the second (mastering the story) on another occasion. Similarly, in one case an officer may find it necessary to work through all six steps, while only two steps may be required during a different contact. He continues that

while the principles officers select and the order in which they are applied may vary according to the unique demands of a particular situation, the IMPACT model remains constant.

Fitch's book consists of eight chapters totaling 123 pages and provides a summary along with study questions after each chapter. Randy Means, a 35-year law enforcement veteran, wrote the forward and says this is a must read, along with Dale Carnegies' famous "How to Win Friends and Influence People," and should be required reading for all law enforcement officers. After recently re-reading Carnegies' book, which uses many police analogies, I strongly agree. 🐾



By Brian D. Fitch, SAGE Publications, Inc, 2015, pp. 152

STRANGE STORIES FROM THE BEAT

Utah officer uses "drug-sniffing cat" in traffic stop prank



Video of a Utah police officer's traffic stop has gone viral after he fooled a driver and careful of passengers into believing his drug sniffing cat was prowling their car for contraband. In the video, an officer tells the driver, who he pulled over for speeding, that he's with the Salina Police "feline unit." He said his feline partner, "Officer Froo Froo," would need to sniff the car for the odor of drugs. After bringing the cat to the car to investigate, he finally clues everyone in that it was an April Fool's prank.

Naked burglar sneaks into Georgia home to do laundry



A naked man was arrested after breaking into a Georgia home through a pet door, authorities said. The 28 year old said he entered the home nude to shower, wash his laundry and to use the owner's Wi-Fi. The incident report said he was spotted climbing a neighbor's fence and squeezing through the dog door at the back of the house. He told the deputies that he knew the homeowner, but didn't notify him because he "did not want to bother him."



Woman strangled with bra fights back with ceramic chicken

Police say they arrested a 31-year-old Lexington, Ky. woman after she was strangled by a stranger with her bra. "I thought I was going to die that night," said the victim. She survived the bizarre attack but the 61 year old says it will take a long time to recover. Her face is bruised and scratched, her arms are scraped and she is missing patches of hair. Someone came to my doors, banging, screaming and hollering." She opened the door to her home because she thought it was her granddaughter. Instead, another woman pushed her way inside and wrapped her bra around her neck. "She choked me down and we fought for a good 15 to 20 minutes. Finally I saw one of my (ceramic) chickens on the floor so I picked it up and started bashing her on the head with it," the homeowner said. After she knocked her out, she called police. Investigators say the attacker appeared to be on drugs and thought she was being followed when she showed up on the porch.

Alleged thief caught on camera cooking burger inside closed restaurant

Police in Washington D.C. are searching for a man who was caught on camera cooking himself a hamburger inside a restaurant while it was closed. Police say the incident took place at a 5 Guys restaurant between 3:10 a.m. and 5:05 a.m. The suspect rummaged through the establishment, cooked food and stole bottled water before leaving the restaurant, police said.



Seattle man charged in sequoia standoff

Authorities say the 25-hour saga of a man who refused to come down from a giant sequoia tree in downtown Seattle was "an incalculable waste of time and services." The man was charged with malicious mischief and assault after he climbed to the top of the 90-foot tree, ignoring police efforts to coax him down. He threw apples and branches at responders. The drama sparked intense interest on social media, with the hashtag #ManInTree trending. He's being held on \$50,000 bail. If he makes contact with the tree.



IF YOU HAVE ANY funny, interesting or strange stories from the beat, please send them to jimd.robertson@ky.gov

Put More On Your Plate!



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KENTUCKY LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORIAL FOUNDATION